

**CONCOURS EXTERNE DES 21 ET 22 MARS 2016
POUR LE RECRUTEMENT DE CONTROLEURS DES DOUANES ET DROITS
INDIRECTS**

Branche du contrôle des opérations commerciales et d'administration générale

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Épreuve orale d'admission n° 2

**Interrogation de langue étrangère consistant dans la traduction orale en français d'un texte écrit
dans la langue étrangère choisie, suivie d'une conversation dans la même langue**

(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

What's inside the Queen's handbag ?

As the British monarch celebrates her 90th birthday, Lindsay Baker delves into the immaculate wardrobe of the most photographed woman in history.

Her Majesty the Queen has never yielded to fashion's whims. As royal designer Sir Norman Hartnell said rather sternly to The New York Times in 1953: "The Queen and the Queen Mother do not want to be fashion setters. That is left to other people with less important work to do."

The Queen is, in other words, above fashion. Her signature style originated at the start of her reign, and she has steadfastly refused to deviate – so no regrettable '70s prints or ill-judged '80s frills and flounces. The Queen's style is constant and intrinsic to her identity – and although it may look effortless, it subtly sends out all the required messages. It says: unwavering authority, tact and diplomacy, and when the occasion demands it, knock-out, opulent elegance.

The Queen's sartorial choices frequently set the tone. For the Obamas' recent visit to Windsor Castle for her 90th birthday, for instance, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were filmed arriving to meet their guests in the grounds of the estate – with the Duke himself at the wheel of the Range Rover. The Queen sported a light blue skirt suit – with her trademark, no-nonsense headscarf, knotted pragmatically under the chin. The understated mood was set – informal, friendly, familiar. (...)

"The Queen is always appropriate. What appeals is the Englishness of it, a kind of classic, timeless elegance," says Caroline de Guitaut, curator of the UK exhibition *Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from the Queen's Wardrobe*. "The exhibition is about memories," de Guitaut tells BBC Culture. "The outfits shown span the majority of the 20th Century and into the 21st Century, with many of the big occasions that were part of the Queen's life and our lives."

As the most photographed and filmed woman in history and the longest reigning monarch, the Queen has been a focal point for mass communication as it has evolved, from its early days with the first colour photographs and newsreels, to the arrival of television and the internet. When she came to the throne in 1953, the Queen was just 25, her extraordinary coronation gown, created by Hartnell, was embellished with complex symbols and heraldic emblems of the British Isles and the Commonwealth, including an intricate pattern of Welsh leeks, meticulously embroidered on the dress.(...)

Equally iconic is the Queen's handbag, perhaps the most familiar item in her wardrobe. The bags are created by British brand Launer, and she is said to own 200 of them, all with elongated straps to allow for the necessary hand shaking.

By Lindsay Baker , BBC, 10 June 2016

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Arctic sea ice hits new record low for May

The coverage of ice in the Arctic has dwindled to the lowest level ever seen for the month of May, according to the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center.

"During the month, daily sea ice extents tracked about 600,000 square kilometers (232,000 square miles) below any previous year in the 38-year satellite record," according to the center. For perspective, 232,000 square miles is almost the size of Texas (about 86 percent) and that ice coverage has gone.

This follows a string of lows from several months of 2016, meaning records were broken for the months of January, February, and April this year.

Scientists follow the sea ice cover as one of the key components of monitoring the climate. The Arctic sea ice extent has been a focus area because of its decline and what that tells us about global warming.

Since scientists began using satellite-based data in 1978, the Arctic ice cover has been declining at a rate of about 13 percent per decade, according to NASA.

Recent data indicate the ice is thinning and the air temperature is rising.

The temperature throughout May across the Arctic Ocean was about two to three degrees Celsius higher than the average seen between 1981 to 2010, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center's report.

Stick a fork in El Nino

Mark Serreze, the director of U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center attributed some of the low levels of ice to El Niño. "The El Niño certainly had something to do with this," he told Climate Central. "It can have impacts on weather conditions very far away from the tropical Pacific." The El Niño weather event is characterized by warming waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, mainly along the Equator. On Thursday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) declared: "We're sticking a fork in this El Niño and calling it done." Scientist found that the sea surface temperatures in the parts of the Pacific had "mostly returned to near average by the end of May."

[...]

By Madison Park, CNN - June 10, 2016

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Inside the world's largest cruise ship, Harmony of the Seas

The world's biggest-ever cruise ship, the 120,000-tonne Harmony of the Seas, has opened its doors to reveal a vast floating town as it was handed over by a French shipyard to its American owners.

At 66 metres (217ft), it is the widest cruise ship ever built. The huge vessel, which cost close to \$1bn to build, has 16 decks and will be able to carry 6,360 passengers and 2,100 crew members.

The ship was built for the US-based Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited by the STX France yard in Saint-Nazaire on the Atlantic coast, where a ceremony marked the handover on Thursday.

"It's not only the biggest cruise ship in the world, it's also the most expensive ever built," said Richard Fain, head of RCCL, during a ceremony which featured blaring music and tightrope walkers performing splits over the aquatheatre at the back of the ship.

Among the onboard attractions are "The Ultimate Abyss", a 10-storey slide from the top deck to the main deck which RCCL bills as the world's biggest ship-mounted waterslide.

A giant climbing wall, a rope slide, mini-golf, surf simulator, floating jacuzzis, casino and 1,400-seat theatre playing Broadway musicals are among the other attractions. Two robot barmen will serve passengers in the "Bionic Bar". The ship even has its own shopping street and a "Central Park" deck featuring 12,000 plant species.

"Creating this ship in 40 months is an extraordinary feat – it's the achievement of thousands of people," said Laurent Castaing, head of STX France. Harmony of the Seas will produce 20% less CO2 emissions than the two largest ships in its class, partly thanks to air pumped into the hull to lighten its load. It took 2,500 workers at STX France around 10 million work-hours to complete the enormous vessel after work began in September 2013.

[...]

Friday 13 May 2016, the guardian

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Risk of catching Zika during Olympics is 'almost zero,' Brazilian official says

Brazil's new health minister stepped up the offensive to convince tourists and athletes that the risk of catching the Zika virus during the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro is "almost zero."

"We are here to put at ease the minds of all residents and tourists coming to the games," Ricardo Barros said at a news conference Friday.

He cited a study by Cambridge University that concluded there was only a very low chance that any of the expected 500,000 foreign tourists would get the virus.

The Zika virus was detected in Brazil last year and has since caused a huge surge in birth defects.

Last month, 150 scientists and doctors posted an open letter arguing that the 2016 Summer Games should be postponed or moved.

When asked Friday whether there is a risk that the World Health Organization could end up recommending that the Games be postponed during its meeting next week, Barros said, "We don't consider the hypotheses of postponing the games. There is no scientific basis that recommends that kind of decision."

A handful of athletes have expressed concern over the virus. Some have even pulled out of the competition. British long jumper Greg Rutherford announced that he has frozen a sperm sample, also over Zika concern. But on Friday, Barros noted that the Summer Games will be held in Brazil's winter, when the Aedes Aegypti mosquito that transmits the disease tends to die off.

[...] Since the virus was first detected in the country, the Brazilian Health Ministry has confirmed 1,489 cases of Zika-related microcephaly, a rare birth defect in which babies are born with abnormally small heads and other neurological problems. It is still investigating more than 3,000 suspected cases.

[...] The best way to reduce risk of disease is to follow public health travel advice."

By Shasta Darlington, CNN - June 11, 2016

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France is banning ride sharing service UberPop

The UberPop transport service will be forbidden in France beginning Jan. 1, the French interior ministry said on Monday, the latest regulatory hurdle for the controversial car service company.

The announcement came as taxi unions called a one-day action to protest San Francisco-based Uber, vowing to block 260 km (160 miles) of roads around Paris with slowly moving taxi motorcades during the morning rush hour.

Brandet said a law voted this year that takes effect in 2015 and regulates the taxi industry and chauffeured cars "is even more constrictive for these types of businesses."

"Not only is it illegal to offer this service but additionally for the consumer there is a real danger," ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet told iTELE, citing the inadequate insurance of drivers.

Uber did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Highly regulated taxi drivers have protested that Uber, which allows users to summon taxi-like services from their smartphones, has hit their business unfairly as it has expanded rapidly over the four years since its launch.

On Friday, a commercial court in Paris refused to hear a lawsuit brought by Uber's competitors that sought to ban UberPop on the grounds of unfair competition.

The court said the emergency request was unjustified and said any further actions to ban the service should be examined in a criminal court.

Uber's French subsidiary was fined 100,000 euros in October for fraudulent business practices, with a court finding that it advertised UberPop as a car pool instead of a paid transportation service.

Uber has continued to operate the service pending appeal.

In a statement, the president of the union Taxi de France called on taxi drivers to react with "fervor and firmness to this injustice."

"Come out in mass to defend our work, it's an important moment," President Ibrahim Sylla wrote.

Reporting By Chine Labbe. Writing by Alexandria Sage; editing by Mark John, Reuters

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Great Pacific Garbage Patch

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of marine debris in the North Pacific Ocean. Marine debris is litter that ends up in oceans, seas, and other large bodies of water.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, also known as the Pacific trash vortex, spans waters from the West Coast of North America to Japan. The patch is actually comprised of the Western Garbage Patch, located near Japan, and the Eastern Garbage Patch, located between the U.S. states of Hawaii and California.

These areas of spinning debris are linked together by the North Pacific Subtropical Convergence Zone, located a few hundred kilometers north of Hawaii. This convergence zone is where warm water from the South Pacific meets up with cooler water from the Arctic. The zone acts like a highway that moves debris from one patch to another.

The entire Great Pacific Garbage Patch is bounded by the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. An ocean gyre is a system of circular ocean currents formed by the Earth's wind patterns and the forces created by the rotation of the planet. The North Pacific Subtropical Gyre is created by the interaction of the California, North Equatorial, Kuroshiro, and North Pacific currents. These four currents move in a clockwise direction around an area of 20 million square kilometers (7.7 million square miles).

The area in the center of a gyre tends to be very calm and stable. The circular motion of the gyre draws debris into this stable center, where it becomes trapped. A plastic water bottle discarded off the coast of California, for instance, takes the California Current south toward Mexico. There, it may catch the North Equatorial Current, which crosses the vast Pacific. Near the coast of Japan, the bottle may travel north on the powerful Kuroshiro Current. Finally, the bottle travels westward on the North Pacific Current. The gently rolling vortexes of the Eastern and Western Garbage Patches gradually draw in the bottle.

National Geographic Society

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ALI

"I am the greatest!" He said it first but it wasn't long before many agreed -- Muhammad Ali, world champion boxer, often political activist, and eternal icon.

"This will be no contest. This will be a total annihilation!"

He was born Cassius Marcellus Clay and grew up in the Deep South during a time of segregation between the races. It was difficult to keep Ali quiet. His fight for equality was one of his many memorable battles. But perhaps most of all, Ali became known for his fast fists, swift step and wicked wit.

"I'm going to float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. George can't hit what a guy can't see."

Just 22 years old, Ali took up his mantle as the new heavyweight champion of the world after a stunning upset over Sonny Liston. He changed his name and joined the Nation of Islam, later converting to the Sunni sect of the faith.

"In Islamic religion we have a saying 'Allahu Akbar'. 'Allahu Akbar' means 'God is the greatest'. So I'm not God, I'm just the greatest in the sport of boxing."

Ali defended his title nine times before being banned for refusing – on religious grounds – to serve in Vietnam.

"Why should we and other so-called Negroes go 10,000 miles away from home here in America to drop bombs and bullets on other innocent brown people who've never bothered us?"

After three years of legal challenges during his prime boxing years, he won a high court appeal and made his return to the ring.

"They might put my tail in jail and get me out on bail after what I do to Joe Frazier. I'm going to do something to Joe Frazier. This will be such a good whooping, such a dynamic beating, such a superior whooping!"

But it wasn't to be. Joe Frazier won the so-called Fight of the Century on points in the 15th round – Ali's first-ever professional defeat.

Then came the 'Rumble in the Jungle' in Central Africa. Unveiling his new tactic, the 'rope-a-dope.' Ali wore down his opponent George Foreman and was once again world champion, at the age of 32.

"I injure a stone and I hospitalise a brick. I'm so bad I made medicine sick." it's fair to say there was and will always be something magical about Muhammad Ali.

(...)

Source: www.ondemandnews.com

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

***Paris climate summit put planet on course
for 'catastrophic' warming despite being seen as success, study finds***

While countries agreed to try to limit global warming to a rise of 1.5C, the actions they actually promised could see temperatures go up by twice that amount.

The pledges made by countries at the historic Paris agreement on climate change would lead to “completely catastrophic” global warming, scientists have warned.

In a major analysis of 10 different studies into the effect of what world leaders promised to do, researchers calculated that the planet was still on course for a temperature increase of 2.6C to 3.1C by the end of this century.

Their finding was in sharp contrast to the landmark declaration in Paris in November last year that action would be taken to keep the rise to “well below” 2C and try to restrict it to 1.5C.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, a team of academics said that their projections based on the promises made by nation states at Paris showed the world was facing an “important challenge”.

“Further greater reductions in the coming decade and preparing for a global transformation of development pathways is critical,” they wrote.

One of the researchers, Professor Niklas Höhne, of the New Climate Institute in Cologne, told *The Independent*: “Three degrees of warming would be what I describe as completely catastrophic and this is definitely what we need to avoid.

“Even two degrees is not a very pleasant situation, with significantly more droughts and floods and weather events ... not a very pleasant world. There’s also the risk of tipping points and irreversible change.

“We are going a step in the right direction, but we are definitely far away from where we should be. We are going a third in the right direction and we still have two-thirds to do.”

Mark Lynas, the author of the award-winning book Six Degrees : Our future on a hotter planet predicted that three degrees of warming would have a devastating impact on the world.

For example, the Indian monsoon, which was a week late this year and is essential for billions of people, would likely fail, the Amazonian rainforest would dry out and life in much of South America would become increasingly difficult because of the searing heat and smoke from wildfires, and the west coast of the US – already suffering from severe droughts – would suffer from rampant wildfires and a lack of water to fight them.

The Independent, Thursday 30 June 2016.

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A town called Sturgis

The town's annual Harley Davidson festival draws bikers from all over the world.

If the Harley Davidson motorbike is something of an American legend, Sturgis is the town in which that legend is permanently refreshed. It is the world's biggest annual biking festival, the annual get-together for America's Harley fanatics. Gil Eble went there and sent back this exclusive report.

To imagine what "Sturgis" is like, you really need to go there; words cannot fully express the atmosphere of this small town in South Dakota (the middle of nowhere) when, each year, it is invaded by hundreds of thousands of American bikers.

They come from all over the USA, and from all over the world, most of them on Harley-Davidsons. America's own bike, the Harley. There are old Harleys, new Harleys, big ones, small ones; standard ones, custom-built ones, shining ones and muddy ones. The riders come to watch, to talk, to discuss, to drink beer, and to meet friends; but most of all, they come for the atmosphere.

It was back in 1938 that the first wave of bikers came to this unsuspecting little town (the twelfth biggest in the whole state of South Dakota) in the heart of rural America. They had been invited along by J.C. "Pappy" Hoel, a native of the town who had a passion for "Indians" (the name of a type of bike), and decided to organize the first flat track races officially recognized by the American Motorcycle Association.

In the year 2000 the Millennium rally brought 633,000 people to Sturgis for Bike Week, a large percentage of them on Harleys; but though the races drew in huge crowds, the main thing most people wanted to do was to walk or drive round Main Street and the roads around it. On bike or on foot, there was little difference in speed; either way, it took about two hours to cover the two miles from the town center to the interstate.

As for the Sheriff and the State Police, they are always alarmed about the impact on the small tranquil community of the sudden and brief invasion of hundreds of thousands of people - many of them tattooed. Police are everywhere, and it is said that there are over a thousand FBI agents in the crowd, passing themselves off as ordinary bikers. Yet now, after more than sixty years, the town of Sturgis has learned to live with the annual event.

(...)

Source : Linguapress

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Think TTIP is a threat to democracy? There's another trade deal that's already signed

As the great powers gathered in Japan for last week's G7 summit, a series of massive trade deals were under attack from all sides. And yet, from Donald Trump to Jeremy Corbyn, there is a recognition that "trade" has become little more than a synonym for big business to take ever more control of society.

The US-Europe deal TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) is the best known of these so-called "new generation" trade deals and has inspired a movement. More than 3 million Europeans have signed Europe's biggest petition to oppose TTIP, while 250,000 Germans took to the streets of Berlin last autumn to try to bring this deal down. A new opinion poll shows only 18% of Americans and 17% of Germans support TTIP, down from 53% and 55% just two years ago.

But TTIP is not alone. Its smaller sister deal between the EU and Canada is called Ceta (the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement). Ceta is just as dangerous as TTIP; indeed it's in the vanguard of TTIP-style deals, because it's already been signed by the European commission and the Canadian government. It now awaits ratification over the next 12 months.

The one positive thing about Ceta is that it has already been signed and that means that we're allowed to see it. Its 1,500 pages show us that it's a threat to not only our food standards, but also the battle against climate change, our ability to regulate big banks to prevent another crash and our power to renationalise industries.

Like the US deal, Ceta contains a new legal system, open only to foreign corporations and investors. Should the British government make a decision, say, to outlaw dangerous chemicals, improve food safety or put cigarettes in plain packaging, a Canadian company can sue the British government for "unfairness".
[...]

The G7's problems show that many of us have recognised that trade deals have made the world a playground for the super-rich – they are part of our staggeringly unequal economy. But the G7 is unable to think beyond the interests of the world's elite. It's up to us to reclaim our democracy as citizens, and the movements against TTIP and Ceta are the frontline.

The Guardian, May the 30th 2016

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In Paris, the Seine rises to highest level since 1982

[...] Heavy rains in France lifted the Seine on Friday to its highest levels since 1982, threatening Paris's cultural institutions and soaking the French countryside east of the capital.

The Seine has continued to swell since the river burst its banks on Wednesday, raising alarms throughout the city. As of 10 p.m. on Friday, its waters had reached 20 feet. The river was expected to crest on Saturday morning at up to 21.3 feet, and to remain at high levels throughout the weekend, the French Environment Ministry said in a statement.

A worker building a flood barrier in 1982, the last time the Seine reached the level it did on Friday. Credit Pierre Guillaud/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

"The situation is still evolving hour by hour," a deputy mayor of Paris, Colombe Brossel, said at a news conference at City Hall, adding that the authorities estimated that it would take at least a week or more for the water to recede to normal levels, which are typically three to six feet above the standard reference point for measuring the height of the river.

Near the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, pieces of tree trunks floated along the swollen river. The waters had risen to the waistline of the Zouave, a notable statue next to the Pont de l'Alma that has traditionally been used as a gauge of the Seine's levels. The city's government urged residents to move valuables out of their basements. An art collection had to be removed from the city hall in Ivry-sur-Seine, a southeastern suburb of Paris.

"Around the Eiffel Tower, the banks are flooded," said Julien Rogard, 23, an engineer who takes the No. 6 Métro line, which crosses over the Seine on the Pont de Bir-Hakeim. "Where we usually can walk, we can't anymore."

The Seine has not overflowed this much since December 1982, when it rose to about 20 feet, but the river's level is still short of the 26.2 feet reached in the catastrophic flood of January 1910.

France's environment minister, Ségolène Royal, said that the swollen Seine River was starting to recede and that hope for improvement was coming, albeit slowly. [...]

By Lilia BLAISE and Benoît MORENNE, June 3, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com>

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California Governor signs bill raising tobacco-purchase age to 21

California Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday signed into law a bill raising the legal purchase age for cigarettes and other tobacco products to 21 years from 18.

Legislation taking effect June 9 deals blow to cigarette industry, boost to antismoking effort and is a big boost to a movement that is turning into the next major challenge to the \$100 billion tobacco industry.

It capped a difficult day for the tobacco industry. The European Union's top court on Wednesday upheld a 2014 law that would ban menthol cigarettes and mandate bigger warning labels on cigarette packages. On the same day, India's Supreme Court ordered tobacco companies to comply with a new rule requiring graphic warnings cover 85% of every cigarette pack. In the U.S., lawmakers in more than 10 other states are considering similar legislation. The Massachusetts Senate passed a bill last month to raise its legal purchase age to 21. The bill still must be voted on by the state House of Representatives.

In addition to signing the bill boosting the age limit on cigarette buying, Mr. Brown signed another measure that prohibits e-cigarette use where smoking is forbidden.

Raising the purchase age to 21 nationwide would cost the tobacco industry about \$2 billion, or 2%, in near-term cigarette sales, according to a 2014 article in the American Journal of Public Health by Jonathan Winickoff, associate professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Proponents of raising the legal age say they want to disrupt cigarette use before it becomes an adult habit. Nearly nine out of 10 smokers first light up by age 18, and 99% start by 26, according to a 2012 report by the U.S. Surgeon General. About two-thirds of smokers start before 18, according to the Surgeon General's report.

According to a separate government-commissioned study last year, increasing the purchase age to 21 would "substantially" reduce the numbers of 15- to 17-year-olds who begin smoking.

[...]

By Tripp Mickle and Alejandro Lazo - The Wall Street Journal - May 5, 2016

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Épreuve orale d'admission n° 2

**Interrogation de langue étrangère consistant dans la traduction orale en français d'un texte écrit
dans la langue étrangère choisie, suivie d'une conversation dans la même langue**

(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

Muhammad Ali : boxer died of septic shock

The death of Muhammad Ali, the three times heavyweight champion of the world, set off a torrent of tributes from sporting stars, civil rights campaigners and ordinary fans on Saturday reflecting how the silver-tongued boxer transcended barriers of race and expectation.

He died with four of his daughters gathered at his hospital bedside in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he was being treated for breathing difficulties.

The man who called himself "The Greatest" and spent a career living up to his own description died at the age of 74 on Friday night.

His death was confirmed by Bob Gunnell, his long-time spokesman, who said the cause was "septic shock" due to natural causes.

"It was a very peaceful passing and they are with him as we speak," he said. "You know, we lost a great person in this world tonight.

Ali is survived by his fourth wife Lonnie, whom he married in 1986, and nine children.

A public funeral will take place in Ali's home town of Louisville, Kentucky, on Friday.

Fans gathered outside the Osborn Medical Centre, where he died, taping roses to the wall and lighting candles at a makeshift memorial.

His daughter Hana Ali encapsulated what many saw as his unique combination of strength and tenderness, describing her father as a "humble mountain".

Ali dominated the sport for two decades before time and Parkinson's disease, perhaps triggered by thousands of blows to the head, ravaged his athletic body and ended his storied career in 1981.

As news of his death spread in the early hours of Saturday morning, an extraordinary coalition of fans united in tribute to his sporting prowess, quickness of wit and political defiance.

Barack Obama, who keeps a pair of Ali boxing's gloves in his private study at the White House, said the boxer's struggles helped define America.

"That's the Ali I came to know as I came of age - not just as skilled a poet on the mic as he was a fighter in the ring, but a man who fought for what was right," he said in a heartfelt message.

The Telegraph, 4 June 2016

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

What has the EU ever done for my ... mobile phone?

Using your mobile phone in Europe used to be ruinously expensive but from next year it should cost no more than making a call in the UK.

European officials have agreed to scrap mobile roaming charges, meaning holidaymakers should no longer arrive home to find they have unwittingly racked up eye-watering bills.

From mid-2017 all increased costs for calls, texts and data will be abolished. It follows two years of negotiations, as EU member states put up roadblocks for fear that their domestic mobile phone operators would be adversely affected.

As of the end of April, roaming costs were reduced to five cents (3.95p) a minute for calls, two cents an SMS and five cents a megabyte of data.

"This shows what we can achieve when Britain plays a leading role in Europe," said Liberal Democrat MEP Catherine Bearder.

However, roaming charges will not be completely removed until June 2017 and will require reform of the roaming wholesale market on which national phone operators across Europe trade services between one another.

Any delay to these reforms could put back the date at which European roaming charges are scrapped for good.

The European commission also looks out for potential competition issues and this month blocked the proposed sale of O2 to Hutchison, the owner of Three.

The commission opposed the £10.3bn deal on the grounds that it would mean less choice and higher prices for British consumers.

It has also taken steps to standardise mobile phone chargers, although it has found it difficult to get Apple to cooperate.

All of this means that as of 2014, Europe was the region with the highest mobile penetration in the world, 78% compared with 72% in the US and 50% worldwide.

The Guardian, by Rob Davis, 3 June 2016

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

World Meat Free Day 2016 : Why vegetarianism could be our future

Today is World Meat Free Day, and people all over the world are trying to go meat free for one day – but environmental concerns may mean we should all be considering the choice permanently.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), in 2012 the United Kingdom ranked 22nd for meat consumption per person. We consumed on average 85.8 kilogrammes per person per year.

Of this amount 22 kg was estimated to be beef, 27.9kg was pork, 29.2kg was poultry and 6.1kg was mutton and goat.

According to the FAO, 40 per cent of the food grown in the world today is feed for animals, and it says that figure is likely to increase to 60 per cent in the next 20 years with the emergence of an expanding global middle class who can afford to eat more meat and dairy.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that we are at a low point in our consumption of meat globally, following the financial crisis of 2007.

However, the cost of meat may not be the only reason we should consider taming our carnivorous taste buds.

Our meat consumption also affects the environment, as government targets for methane reduction are burdened by the agriculture sectors need to cater to demand for methane producing animals. The United States' Environmental Protection Agency says that methane is the second most prevalent greenhouse gas and that globally, over 60% of total CH₄ emissions come from human activities. Global efforts to reduce methane have been prioritised more and more in recent years as our issue with consumption becomes more apparent.

[...] This is not simply to do with environmental or monetary concerns either, as there are health benefits to lowering meat intake. Red and processed meat consumption are associated with colon cancer. Evidence compiled in hundreds of studies suggest that diets with high fruits and vegetable intakes may reduce cancer risk. Consumption of these meats is also associated with increases in total mortality, cancer mortality and cardiovascular disease mortality. [...]

The Independent, by Louis Dore, 13 June 2016

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

The story of the Blues

What is - or what are - the Blues? The Blues is a feeling, most African Americans will tell you. If your girl or boyfriend leaves you, for instance, it's quite likely you'll feel sad or dejected for days. In other words, you'll feel *blue*; you'll *have the blues*.

What few African Americans will tell you is that the origin of the expression isn't black and American, but English, although today it's usually associated with Black Americans. In 16th century England, people who were depressed were said to be persecuted by the "blue devils". Later, in 1807, American author Washington Irving already talked about "having a fit of the blues".

But the blues today is generally understood as being a type of music which expresses the feeling of depression which was once common to Blacks, due to oppression, segregation and problems with the other sex. This may be the reason why Blacks used to say "White men can't have the blues", at least not the same kind of blues. The origins of the blues are difficult to retrace because, quite naturally, an oral genre like the blues leaves few written traces. It seems to have developed about 100 years ago, though the name "blues" was not yet used at the time. It grew out of black field songs, negro spirituals and the white folk ballads imported by British settlers and somewhat modified on American soil.

The first blues recordings appeared around 1920. They were made by black women singers who were actually singing a somewhat adulterated form of the music which, strangely enough, was later called "the classic blues". Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith were the most authentic and popular performers of the genre in the 1920's.

The original country or rural blues did not come to be recorded until around 1925, when the record companies realised they could make quite a profit by asking black farmers, who were at best semi-professional musicians, to record a few songs for them in return for a little whisky and about \$5 per song. The lady singers, being professional entertainers, of course requested more.

(...)

by Robert Springer - Source : FreeEFL