

Évaluation spécifique aux sections européennes

Temps de préparation : 20 minutes

Durée de l'épreuve : 20 minutes

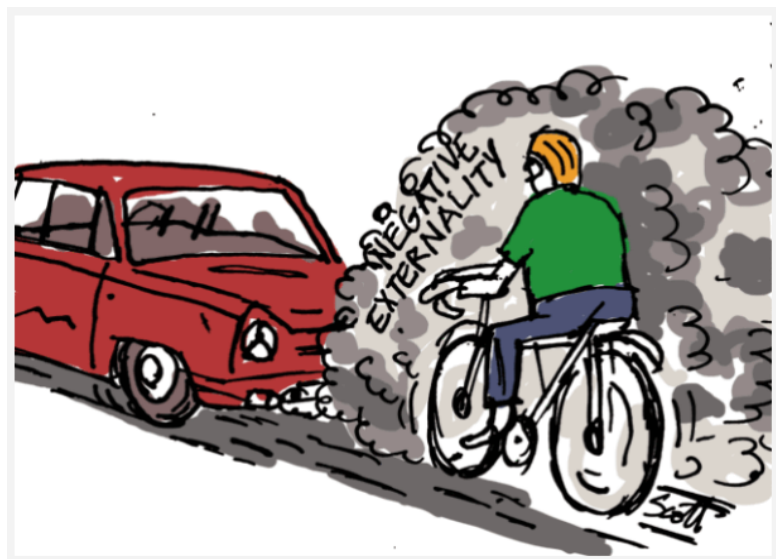
Coefficient : épreuve optionnelle

Thème : Sustainable development

Le sujet comprend deux documents

1. Why is air pollution considered as a negative externality? (document 1)
2. Explain the two measures fighting air pollution in document 2.
3. Is tax the best solution to tackle air pollution?

Document 1



<http://www.romeconomics.com/>

Document 2

The news that India is introducing a new tax on car sales to help combat severe air pollution and congestion problems has unsurprisingly been decried by the country's car industry.

The chair of India's largest car manufacturer, Maruti Suzuki, says the tax "is going to hurt the industry, and will impact growth and affect job creation". Following the announcement, shares in Maruti Suzuki traded more than 5% lower.

But others have celebrated the move, recognising that business as usual cannot continue in a country home to the four most polluted cities in the world. "Once Indians owning cars was seen as a sign of economic success. Now this sort of tax is seen as Indians being responsible," a senior research fellow at a Delhi-based thinktank told the Guardian.

The tax comes on the heels of the Delhi government's unprecedented step this winter of imposing an emergency "odd-even" (1) license plate number rule to restrict private car use to alternate days.

Reports of extreme air pollution in Delhi and other Indian cities are nothing new. The World Health Organisation estimates that more than 600,000 people die each year as a result of outdoor air pollution in India.

'Delhi's air pollution is a classic case of environmental injustice', Guardian Sustainable Business, 9th March 2016, www.theguardian.com

(1) "pair-impair"

Évaluation spécifique aux sections européennes

Temps de préparation : 20 minutes

Durée de l'épreuve : 20 minutes

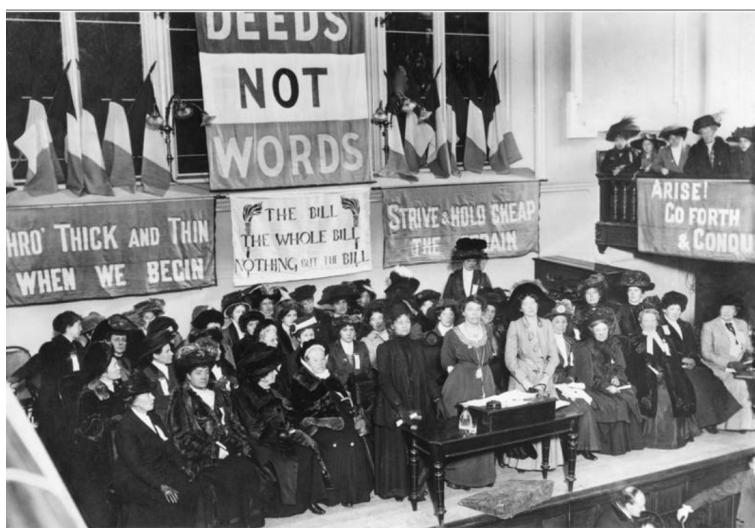
Coefficient : épreuve optionnelle

Thème : Women in politics

Le sujet comprend deux documents

1. What does the slogan “Deeds not words” mean at a women's suffrage meeting in 1908? (document 1)
2. Who were the ‘Suffragettes’ at the beginning of the 20th century in the UK? (document 2)
3. Why is it a long way for women to achieve gender equality?

Document 1



A women's suffrage meeting in Caxton Hall in Manchester, England, circa 1908.

Emmeline Pankhurst stands in the center.

(Photo credit: Public domain.)

Document 2

This year marks the centenary of women gaining the right to vote in Great Britain and Ireland. But while the feminist movement has made monumental strides (1) since, the campaign for equality still continues today.

The watershed moment for the British women's suffrage movement, came 100 years ago when the Representation of the People Act was given Royal Assent from George V on 6 February 1918, giving approximately 8.4 million women the vote. (...)

The 1918 act, championed by suffrage pioneer Millicent Fawcett and suffragette leaders the Pankhursts, is considered a pivotal moment for women's rights and helped lay the foundations for progress towards greater political, social and economic equality.

But, a century later women, still face gender equality barriers and prejudice, as highlighted by the gender pay gap, Time's Up movement and countless examples of everyday sexism. The Fawcett Society says there is still much progress to be made.

“We have come a long way since some women first got the vote, but there is so much more that needs to be done,” chief executive Sam Smethers told *The Telegraph*.

“How far have women's rights advanced in a century?”, Mark Molloy, 6 February 2018, www.telegraph.co.uk

(1) strides: steps

Évaluation spécifique aux sections européennes

Temps de préparation : 20 minutes

Durée de l'épreuve : 20 minutes

Coefficient : épreuve optionnelle

Thème : Unemployment

Le sujet comprend deux documents

1. What is meant by unemployment benefits in document 1 and 2?
2. Explain the issue at stake in document 1.
3. Does extended unemployment benefits harm the economy?

Document 1



www.dailykos.com

Document 2

When the markets crashed in 2008, Congress extended unemployment insurance, making laid-off workers eligible for up to 99 weeks of benefits, which are normally about half of what the worker made previously. (...)

Proponents argue that the more money people have, the more they spend, which means more business for local stores, groceries, or wherever else people would use a little extra cash. (...)

But conservatives question the benefit to the economy, noting that most economic studies (...) show that enhanced unemployment benefits cause the unemployment rate to rise, not fall. That is partially because, some economists argue, unemployment benefits reduce the incentive to find work. With unemployment benefits available, people might hold out and wait for the right job to come along, ignoring lower-paying job offers. (...)

"By having extended unemployment insurance, you're delaying the tough decisions that people have to make." Even left-leaning economists agree that, when the economy is chugging along (1), extending unemployment benefits beyond 26 weeks causes more harm than good.

Does Extending Jobless Benefits Help the Economy? By Alex M. Parker | Staff Writer Dec. 1, 2011.
<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/>

(1) is chugging along: is slowing down.

Évaluation spécifique aux sections européennes

Temps de préparation : 20 minutes

Durée de l'épreuve : 20 minutes

Coefficient : épreuve optionnelle

Thème : Work management

Le sujet comprend deux documents.

1. From the picture in document 1 explain what “an assembly line” consists in.
2. What economic expression the underlined sentence refers to (document 2)?
3. Analyse the different effects of Fordism on workers’ working conditions.

Document 1



<https://corporate.ford.com>

Document 2

On January 5, 1914, Henry Ford and his vice president James Couzens stunned the world when they revealed that Ford Motor Company would double its workers’ wages to five dollars a day. (...)

To a large degree, Ford’s implementation of the Five-Dollar Day cannot be appreciated without first understanding his advances with the moving assembly line. Experiments through 1913 and into 1914 reduced the time required to build a Model T automobile from 12½ hours to a mere 93 minutes. Increased efficiencies lowered production costs, which lowered customer prices, which increased demand. The public was eager (1) to buy all of the cars Ford could build.

Explosive production gains came at the cost of worker satisfaction. The very goal of the moving assembly line was to take what had been relatively skilled craftwork and reduce it to simple, rote tasks. Workers who had taken pride in their labor were quickly bored by the more mundane (2) assembly process. Some took to lateness and absenteeism. Many simply quit, and Ford found itself with a crippling labor turnover rate of 370 percent. The assembly line depended on a steady crew of employees to staff it, and training replacements was expensive. Ford reasoned that a bigger paycheck might make the factory’s tedium (3) more tolerable.

https://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/pic/2014/14_jan.asp

(1) eager: wishful

(2) mundane: ordinary

(3) tedium: boredom

MOCK EXAM 4

Correction

Question 1

- **assembly line**: Firstly, the assembly line is able to divide the job into several tasks: it refers to the division of labour meaning that workers are **specialized**, doing only one specific task. Secondly, workers don't move in the plant, as we can see on the picture. By this way, time could be reduced. As a result, workers can do their job faster than before, thereby improving their **efficiency /productivity**.

Question 2

The underlined sentence refers to labour productivity meaning the efficiency of labour, one of the factors of production. Broadly speaking, labour productivity is measured either by worker (output / workers) or by hours (output/ number of working hours). You could increase labour productivity by 3 ways: same amount of output with less workers; an increase of output with the same quantity of labour, more output with less labour.

At Ford, it was needed less 2 hours in 1914 compared to 12 hours in 1914 to produce a Ford T, so six time less. Ford made productivity gains.

Question 3

At the beginning of 20th century, H. Ford introduced **technical innovations** in his car factory based on Taylorism (recap).

The new methods of production at Ford were mainly based on 3 principles:

- the **moving assembly line**;
- **standardized parts**;
- the rise of wages to **\$5 a day**.

This re-new of work management contains both good and bad effects on workers' working conditions.

- On the one hand, **the moving assembly line** involved a higher efficiency of labour. Moving assembly line which looked like **technological process/ innovation** was introduced at the Ford plant in 1913. It deepened the division of labour where **specialized** workers are able to work faster and thus increase their **productivity**. The rise of the **labour productivity** permitted lower costs of production, and thus lower prices cars propped up the consumption, so the demand and the **economic growth**. Plus, Ford rose its workers' wages in 1914. Each worker at Ford could obtain **5 dollars a day** which was a high salary compared to the others at the beginning of the 20th century. Ford has reckoned that a high wage increases the worker 's purchasing power. With this in mind, Ford has created the ability for the worker to buy the Ford T produced in his plant. Ford has stimulated the **demand** with the increase of the workers' wages.
- On the other hand, workers' skills were reduced due to the specialisation introduced by the assembly line. **Specialized workers** were bored repeating the same task all the time. To avoid absenteeism and turnover which both cost a lot to the company, H. Ford offered a pay increase. "Five dollars a day" could compensate the tedium task introduced by the assembly line and could incentive workers to stay at the Ford company.

The Ford's manufacturing process generated **economic growth** because the new process of production has boosted both the **supply** (or production) and the **demand**.

Finally, **mass production matched to the rise of the demand has boosted the economic growth**.

Évaluation spécifique aux sections européennes

Temps de préparation : 20 minutes

Durée de l'épreuve : 20 minutes

Coefficient : épreuve optionnelle

Thème : Work management

Le sujet comprend deux documents.

1. Pick out in document 1 and explain the two main innovations introduced by Henry Ford at the beginning of the 20th century?
2. What do 'Jidoka' and 'Just in time' consist in? (document 2)
3. Present the advantages and disadvantages of Fordism and the Toyota Production System?

Document 1

Antonio Gramsci called Fordism "an ultra-modern form of production and of working methods such as is offered by the most advanced American variety, the industry of Henry Ford."

Ford pioneered the modern model of mass production which bears his name, and which is often said to date from the development of the first moving assembly lines, put into operation at Ford's Model T plant at Highland Park, Michigan in 1914.

The assembly line increased labor productivity **tenfold** and permitting stunning price cuts in Ford cars: from \$780 in 1910 to \$360 in 1914. Fordism thus involved standardizing a product and manufacturing it by mass means at a price so low that the common man could afford to buy it.

http://historytransformationofdesign.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/7/2/11722228/taylorism_and_fordism.pdf

tenfold: decuple

Document 2



<https://www.lean.org/the-lean-post/articles/tps-the-thinking-people-system/>

MOCK EXAM 5

Correction

1. Pick out in document 1 and explain the two main innovations introduced by Henry Ford at the beginning of the 20th century.

Moving assembly lines: in the moving assembly, workers did not move down the line, they stood in one place and did not change with another worker. Consequently, workers did not waste time moving around and became more efficient.

Standardizing a product refers to the fact that pieces are interchangeable.

2. What do 'Jidoka' and 'Just in time' consist in (document 2)?

- **'Jidoka'** is the principle of the self-monitoring machines: the machine will stop automatically when a defect occurs.
- **'Just in time'** means that each process step notifies the previous step of its current needs for materials. No inventory is required because you produce what it is necessary.

3. Present the advantages and disadvantages of Fordism and the Toyota Production System?

	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
LEAN MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Less waste: continually refining the workflow means productivity gains;- Increased Quality of the product by decreasing the number of defects and reworks in products;- Better Employee motivation: in regular communication with their managers about their work and their process, employees could feel they are empowered to make better decisions;- A smarter way of working. Using the pull system means the team will only work on tasks when there's demand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High Implementation Cost: especially for companies who are not prepared for the increased expenses of bringing in new equipment and training programs;- Lack of time: lean requires some planning and time upfront. It takes time to discuss the work that's been completed, what needs to be done, and any problems.- Teams will need to work independently without too much direction, which could cause stress for the employees;- With low amounts of stock any disruption of inventory processes can derail the company.

Temps de préparation : 20 minutes

Durée de l'épreuve : 20 minutes

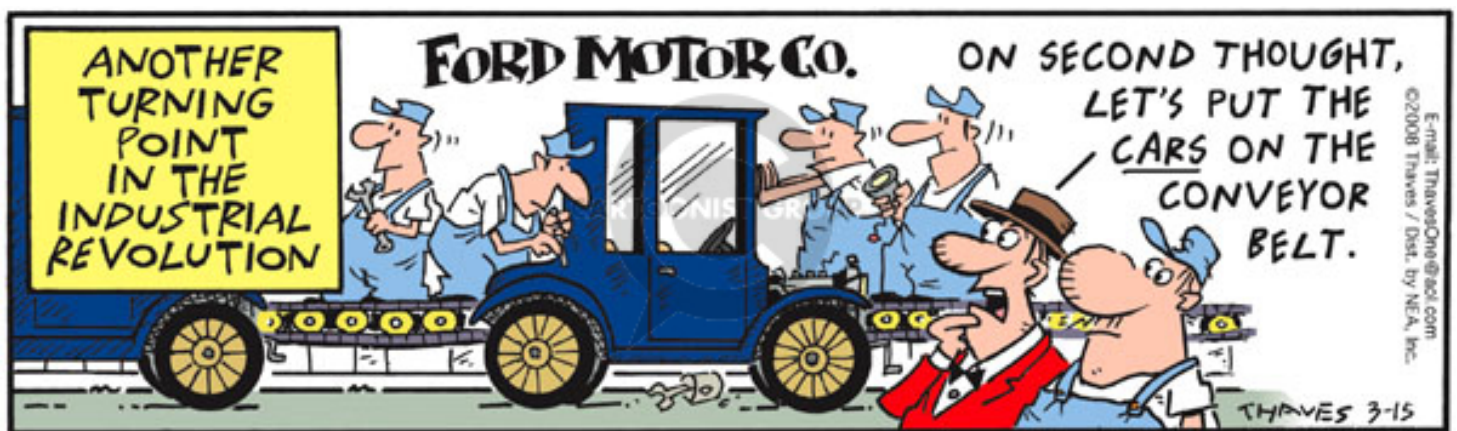
Coefficient : épreuve optionnelle

Thème : Labour and economic growth

Le sujet comprend deux documents

4. What is meant by 'division of labour'? (document 1)
5. Pick out any innovations put in place by Henri Ford in his cars plant at the beginning of the 20th century. (documents 1 and 2)
6. Why is Fordism considered as an economic 'revolution'?

Document 1



www.thecomicstrips.com

Document 2

Henry Ford was once a popular symbol of the transformation from an agricultural to an industrial, mass production, mass consumption economy. (...). Although partly myth, there is some merit to this attribution. Ford was the creative force behind the growth to preeminence of the automobile industry, still the world's largest manufacturing activity. As Womack, Jones, and Roos (1990: 11) explain: "Twice in this century [the auto industry] has changed our most fundamental ideas about how we make things. And how we make things dictates not only how we work but what we buy, how we think, and the way we live."

The first of these transformations was from craft production to mass production. This helped to create the market as we know it, based on economies of scale and scope (1), and gave rise to giant organizations built upon functional specialization and minute divisions of labor. Economies of scale were produced by spreading fixed expenses, especially investments in plant and equipment and the organization of production lines, over larger volumes of output, thereby reducing unit costs. Economies of scope were produced by exploiting the division of labor -- sequentially combining specialized functional units, especially overheads (2) such as reporting, accounting, personnel, purchasing, or quality assurance, in multifarious ways so that it was less costly to produce several products than a single specialized one.

"Fordism, Post-Fordism, and the flexible system of production", G. Frederick Thompson,
www.dcdde.vt.edu

- (1) economies of scale and scope: économies d'échelle et de gamme
- (2) overheads : frais généraux