



Concours ITA session 2024

Composition : **Anglais 3**

Durée : **2 Heures**

Consignes pour les candidats	Merci de ne rien marquer sur le sujet.
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Epreuve : Anglais Durée : 2 heures

Part 1. Reading comprehension

Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Choose the right alternative **A, B, C** or **D**.

Transgenic Plants

Genes from virtually any organism, from viruses to humans, can now be inserted into plants, creating what are known as transgenic plants. Now used in agriculture, there are approximately 109 million acres of transgenic crops grown worldwide, 68 percent of which are in the United States. The most common transgenic crops are soybeans, corn, cotton, and canola. Most often, these plants either contain a gene making them resistant to the herbicide *glyphosate* or they contain an insect-resistant gene that produces a protein called *Bt toxin*.

On the positive side, proponents of transgenic crops argue that these crops are environmentally friendly because they allow farmers to use fewer and less noxious chemicals for crop production. For example, a 21 percent reduction in the use of insecticide has been reported on Bt cotton (transgenic cotton that produces Bt toxin). In addition, when glyphosate is used to control weeds, other, more persistent herbicides do not need to be applied.

On the negative side, opponents of transgenic crops suggest that there are many questions that need to be answered before transgenic crops are grown on a large scale. One question deals with the effects that Bt plants have on non-target organisms such as beneficial insects, worms, and birds that consume genetically engineered crops. For example, monarch caterpillars feeding on milkweed plants near Bt cornfields will eat some corn pollen that has fallen on the milkweed leaves. Laboratory studies indicate that caterpillars can die from eating Bt pollen. However, field tests indicate that Bt corn is not likely to harm monarchs. Furthermore, the application of pesticides (the alternative to growing Bt plants) has been demonstrated to cause widespread harm to non-target insects.

Another unanswered question is whether herbicide-resistant genes will move into the populations of weeds. Crop plants are sometimes grown in areas where weedy relatives also live. If the crop plants hybridize and reproduce with weedy relatives, then this herbicide-resistant gene will be perpetuated in the offspring. In this way, the resistant gene can make its way into the weed population. If this happens, a farmer can no longer use glyphosate, for example, to kill those weeds. This scenario is not likely to occur in many instances because there are no weedy relatives growing near the crop plant. However, in some cases, it may become a serious problem. For example, canola readily hybridizes with mustard weed species and could transfer its herbicide-resistant genes to those weeds.

We know that evolution will occur when transgenic plants are grown on a large scale over a period of time. Of special concern is the development of insect populations resistant to the Bt toxin. This pesticide has been applied to plants for decades without the development of insect-resistant populations. However, transgenic Bt plants express the toxin in all tissues throughout the growing season. Therefore, all insects carrying genes that make them susceptible to the toxin will die. That leaves only the genetically resistant insects alive to perpetuate

the population. When these resistant insects mate, they will produce a high proportion of offspring capable of surviving in the presence of the Bt toxin. Farmers are attempting to slow the development of insect resistance in Bt crops by, for example, planting nontransgenic border rows to provide refuge for susceptible insects. These insects may allow Bt susceptibility to remain in the population.

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1. According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true of transgenic plants that produce the protein Bt?
 - A. They are resistant to certain herbicides.
 - B. They grow best in the United States.
 - C. They were treated with the chemical glyphosate.
 - D. They are resistant to destruction by insects.

2. According to paragraph 2, supporters claim that producing transgenic plants enables farmers to
 - A. increase crop production by up to 21 percent
 - B. use fewer and less toxic chemicals
 - C. control weeds without the use of glyphosate
 - D. take advantage of more effective herbicides

3. Which of the following can be inferred about monarch caterpillars from paragraph 3?
 - A. They often cause damage to corn crops.
 - B. They are the only species that is immune to Bt toxin.
 - C. They are considered beneficial insects.
 - D. Their reactions to Bt pollen have not yet been studied.

4. What conclusion does the author make in paragraph 3 about the effect of Bt plants on non-target organisms?
 - A. Bt toxins do not affect non-target organisms because the toxins only harm pests that eat the leaves, stems, or fruit of the plants.
 - B. Bt plants have been shown in field studies to cause great harm to nontarget organisms.
 - C. Bt plants do not cause as much harm to nontarget species as the use of conventional pesticides.
 - D. Even if Bt toxins do not affect the insects that feed on the plants, they have harmful effects on birds that eat these insects.

5. The word “perpetuated” in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. continued
 - B. reproduced
 - C. observed
 - D. spread

6. The word “scenario” in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. effect
 - B. problem
 - C. resistance
 - D. situation

7. Why does the author mention “mustard weed species” in the discussion of plants that hybridize?
 - A. To give an example of a weed that may become resistant to glyphosate due to hybridizing with a transgenic plant
 - B. To argue that creating transgenic plants in the laboratory is not always necessary, as some can be created through hybridizing in the fields

- C. To provide evidence that competition from related species of plants can be a serious problem for transgenic plants
- D. To support the claim that it is difficult to determine whether or not a crop plant has been planted a safe distance from weedy relatives

8. Paragraph 5 makes all of the following claims about Bt resistance in insect populations EXCEPT:

- A. Regular use of Bt pesticides has not created resistant insect populations, so the use of Bt plants is probably safe as well.
- B. The evolution of Bt-resistant insect populations will happen eventually if use of transgenic plants becomes widespread.
- C. Because Bt plants are toxic at all times and in all tissues, they allow only Bt-resistant insects to survive and reproduce.
- D. Planting non-transgenic plants alongside Bt plants may help Bt-susceptible insects to remain part of the population.

Part 2. Grammar in Use

2.1) Fill the space in the sentence using the base word given **in bold** at the end. The required word may be a noun, adverb, adjective or verb and it may be either positive (e.g. helpful) or negative (e.g. unhelpful).

Pick the correct proposal A, B or C.

9. You need to take three of these red pills _____. **Day**

- A. daily B. date C. diurnal

10. He is being very _____ about his whereabouts last night. **Mystery**

- A. mystic B. mysterious C. puzzle

11. It is his _____ which I find so unbelievable. He is normally such a truthful boy! **Honest**

- A. honesty B. credible C. dishonesty

12. If you look on the other side of the cup, you will find a small _____ with the name of the original manufacturer. **Engrave**

- A. inscribe B. engraving C. grave

13. Reports on the invasion are still very unclear, as are the _____ of what this will prompt the government to do. **Imply**

- A. implications B. implying C. deducible

14. The next time you are in a dark place in the countryside at night, look up at the night sky and wonder at the _____ stars set out in the heavens before you. **Number**

- A. numbered B. innumerable C. figure

15. This new law will not only effect cinemas in the United States but could have dramatic and significant effects on the film industry _____. **world**

- A. worldwide B. globe C. global

16. As he was walking home late last night, Mr. Jones saw a strange _____ shape in the sky and rang the police immediately. **Sphere**

- A. spherical B. spheric C. globular

2.2 Fill in the space using the words from the list:

Later / As / Own / Around / Early / Into / Latter / Same

Education by mail

Distance learning is becoming more popular in our society. However, this system dates back to as (17) -----
-----as 1728, when an advertisement was published seeking students who wanted to receive lessons by regular post.

Some time (18) -----, in 1858, the University of London was the first university to offer distance-learning degrees. The largest university in the United Kingdom using this method is the Open University. There are now many similar institutions (19) -----the world with this same name.

(20) -----its primary delivery methodologies, it used television and radio. In the twentieth century, the Internet helped to expand the system to more students.

In fact, the technology used may be divided (21) -----two groups: synchronous and asynchronous. The former allows all participants to be connected at the (22) ----- time with their tutor. The (23) ----- offers the students the possibility of using the materials independently, on their (24) -----schedule.

- 17- A. early B. own C. same
18- A. latter B. later C. around
19- A. as B. early C. around
20- A. into B. as C. later
21- A. into B. own C. early
22- A. around B. same C. own
23- A. into B. early C. latter
24- A. into B. later C. own

2.3 Fill in the **missing prepositions** for each sentence.

25. The class size is limited ----- twenty-two.
A. for B. on C. to
26. Mrs. Finch is thought ----- be one of the best teachers.
A. to B. nor C. in
27. You are responsible ----- the payment.
A. to B. for C. of
28. You have a responsibility ----- your fellow residents.
A. of B. for C. to
29. I will eat neither ice cream ----- cake.
A. in B. nor C. to
30. My paper was based ----- the writings we read.
A. on B. in C. nor
31. Success is the result ----- hard work.
A. to B. of C. for

32. Hard work results ----- success.

- A. on
- B. nor
- C. in

2.4 Identify the types of nouns underlined in the sentences below: Countable (C), Non – Countable (NC) or Both (B). Choose the right answer A, B or C.

33. Randy installed a dashboard fan that runs on the power from his car's cigarette lighter.

- A. C
- B. NC
- C. B

34. His childhood was ordinary, if a little lonely.

- A. C
- B. NC.
- C. B

35. Fish and chicken are good for people with high cholesterol.

- A. B
- B. C
- C. NC

Part 3. Writing (Translation)

5 marks

Translate the following text into French.

Côte d'Ivoire

Country profile

Geographic location

The Côte d'Ivoire is located in West Africa, along the Gulf of Guinea. In the West, it is bordered in a rugged outline by Liberia and Guinea. The neighbouring countries in the North are Mali and Burkina Faso, whereas it is bordered in the East by Ghana and in the South by the Atlantic Ocean.

Area

322,462 sq km

Relief, vegetation and hydrography

The Côte d'Ivoire has no rugged mountains but uniform landscapes with few undulations of ground. Roughly speaking, three major areas may be out: the coastal, the forested and the savannah areas.

Agriculture activity

Agriculture takes a prominent place in Côte d'Ivoire. Coffee and cocoa constitute the main export products as regard to their deep impact on the growth of the Ivorian economy.

(Adapted from *African Trade Directory*, Vol. I, Brescia, Euroteam, 1993.)