

Énoncé

Évaluation de fin de première

Épreuve écrite

Durée : 2 heures

Le sujet porte sur la thématique « Rencontres ».

Prenez connaissance des documents A, B et C et traitez le sujet suivant en anglais :

Write a short commentary on the three documents (minimum 300 words): taking into account the specificities of each document, focus on the way the authors represent love relationships and the difficulties in establishing them.

Document A

[Captain Wentworth] was, at that time, a remarkably fine young man, with a great deal of intelligence, spirit, and brilliancy; and Anne an extremely pretty girl, with gentleness, modesty, taste, and feeling. Half the sum of attraction, on either side, might have been enough, for he had nothing to do, and she had hardly anybody to love; but the encounter of such lavish recommendations could not fail. They were gradually acquainted, and when acquainted, rapidly and deeply in love. It would be difficult to say which had seen highest perfection in the other, or which had been the happiest: she, in receiving his declarations and proposals, or he in having them accepted.

A short period of exquisite felicity followed, and but a short one. Troubles soon arose. Sir Walter, on being applied to, without actually withholding his consent, or saying it should never be, gave it all the negative of great astonishment, great coldness, great silence, and a professed resolution of doing nothing for his daughter. He thought it a very degrading alliance; and Lady Russell, though with more tempered and pardonable pride, received it as a most unfortunate one.

Anne Elliot, with all her claims of birth, beauty, and mind, to throw herself away at nineteen; involve herself at nineteen in an engagement with a young man, who had nothing but himself to recommend him, and no hopes of attaining affluence, but in the chances of a most uncertain profession, and no connexions to secure even his farther rise in the profession, would be, indeed, a throwing away, which she grieved to think of! Anne Elliot, so young; known to so few, to be snatched off by a stranger without alliance or fortune; or rather sunk by him into a state of most wearing, anxious, youth-killing dependence! It must not be, if by any fair interference of friendship, any representations from one who had almost a mother's love, and mother's rights, it would be prevented.

Captain Wentworth had no fortune. He had been lucky in his profession; but spending freely, what had come freely, had realized nothing. But he was confident that he should soon be rich: full of life and ardour, he knew that he should soon have a ship, and soon be on a station that would lead to everything he wanted. He had always been lucky; he knew he should be so still. Such confidence, powerful in its own warmth, and bewitching in the wit which often expressed it, must have been enough for Anne; but Lady Russell saw it very differently. His sanguine temper, and fearlessness of mind, operated very differently on her. She saw in it but an aggravation of the evil. It only added a dangerous character to himself. He was brilliant, he was headstrong. Lady Russell had little taste for wit, and of anything approaching to imprudence a horror. She deprecated the connexion in every light.

Such opposition, as these feelings produced, was more than Anne could combat.

Jane Austen, *Persuasion*, Chapter IV, 1818

Document B

Men should be helped to cross social barriers to find prosperity – and love

Our education system must do more to bring together those of different backgrounds to improve social mobility

Part of the addictive charm of ITV2's⁽¹⁾ *Love Island* was the opportunity it gave us to test the relationship adage "opposites attract".

The reality television show flung together a group of twentysomething singletons in a luxury villa under constant surveillance, with little in common save their desire to become stars.

Some of the unlikely pairings that transpired – a socialite charity worker and a Calvin Klein model; a farm dweller and a former motorsport grid girl⁽²⁾ – suggest there perhaps is something to that old saying.

But it's becoming less true in the real world, where, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, we are becoming increasingly likely to settle down with someone like ourselves in terms of background and earnings.

The findings of its new research echo those of previous studies: social mobility – the link between someone's social background and where they end up in life – has got worse for men born in 1970 compared to those born in 1958. But it shows for the first time this is not just because the link between a man's earnings and those of his father has got stronger. Men born to richer parents also tend to end up better off because they are more likely to be coupled up and their partners are also more likely to earn more. The researchers will next be looking at whether these effects also hold for women [...].

Sonia Sodha, *The Guardian online*, August 13, 2017

Document C



Oil on canvas, 92 x 61.5 cm

Edmund Blair Leighton, *Where there's a will*, 1892

(1)ITV is a British television network (Independent Television).

(2)Grid girl : une hôtesse (ici, sur un circuit automobile).