

## Épreuve 2026 **Anglais** (concours ENAC EPL/S)

### Préambule

Ce document propose l'énoncé de l'épreuve d'Anglais du concours EPL/S 2026.

### Consignes

La durée de l'épreuve est de 2h. Le jour de l'épreuve, les réponses sont reportées sur un formulaire où le candidat noircit les cases «A», «B», «C», «D» ou «E». Il est demandé d'utiliser un stylo bille ou une pointe feutre de couleur noire.

La consigne qui s'applique est la suivante :

Les extraits ci dessous abordent des thèmes divers tirés de l'actualité. Pour chaque phrase numérotée, vous devez choisir le mot ou l'expression correcte et noircir la case correspondante sur la feuille de réponses.

Dans cette épreuve, chaque question ne comporte qu'une seule bonne réponse. En 2026, il n'y avait pas de pénalité en cas de mauvaise réponse.

**French town left €10m fortune by a man who had never been there**

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Roger Thiberville's long life, he never once visited the Normandy town that gave him his last name. Descended from a family of vineyard owners, he inherited property in Paris from his parents and worked as a meteorologist. But when Thiberville died in August at the age of 91 leaving no descendants, the mayor of the town (population 1,773) received a phone call. Thiberville the man 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Thiberville the town most of his estimated €10m fortune.

Guy Paris, the mayor of Thiberville, said astonished and delighted locals and officials were now considering how to spend the unexpected 3) \_\_\_\_\_, which is five times the municipality's annual budget. "It's an exceptional sum of money. Obviously, the amount is beyond imagination," Paris told the local radio station, France Bleu. "We don't 4) \_\_\_\_\_ know what we will do with it.

"We're not going to spend it all. We're going to manage this dowry as we've 5) \_\_\_\_\_ done with our municipal budget - with prudence and responsibility." The French commune is now looking to pay off a bank loan of more than €400,000 used to build a new primary school. 6) \_\_\_\_\_ the town is a public body it will not have to pay any inheritance tax.

Paris said it appeared Thiberville's only link with the town was his name and that he understood the town's benefactor 7) \_\_\_\_\_ "humbly in Paris", where he owned four apartments in the city's south-eastern 15th arrondissement. Perhaps surprisingly, there are no known photographs of him. Thiberville's only 8) \_\_\_\_\_ wish was for his ashes to be placed in a memorial in the commune's cemetery. "Monsieur Thiberville did not demand anything 9) \_\_\_\_\_ for his legacy, but we owe him at least that," the mayor said. Thiberville is an 10) \_\_\_\_\_ town boasting a late-19th-century chateau and a former ribbon factory, but little else to mark it out from other Norman communes.

- |                  |              |               |               |                    |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1) A) Between    | B) Along     | C) Living     | D) Surviving  | E) Throughout      |
| 2) A) left       | B) has left  | C) had left   | D) will leave | E) would leave     |
| 3) A) cascade    | B) windfall  | C) jackpot    | D) profits    | E) benefits        |
| 4) A) still      | B) already   | C) yet        | D) always     | E) ever            |
| 5) A) still      | B) already   | C) yet        | D) always     | E) ever            |
| 6) A) Although   | B) Because   | C) Concerning | D) Despite    | E) Even            |
| 7) A) lived      | B) has lived | C) had lived  | D) was living | E) would be living |
| 8) A) stated     | B) promised  | C) dreamt     | D) divulged   | E) bequeathed      |
| 9) A) exchanging | B) in return | C) justifying | D) in place   | E) compensating    |
| 10) A) unknown   | B) unkempt   | C) unusual    | D) unnoticed  | E) unremarkable    |

**Chess crazy: TV shows, schools, clubs all grab a piece of the game**

Castling. The Berlin defence. En passant. If you **11)** \_\_\_\_\_ heard these terms, chances are you soon will. School chess clubs are booming, new apps are capturing a gen-Z -audience and stone chess boards have been installed in parks **12)** \_\_\_\_\_ the country.

This year, a chess competition show comes to the BBC: Sue Perkins and Anthony Mathurin will present Chess Masters, in which 12 players battle it out. Chess is already a **13)** \_\_\_\_\_ spectator sport on other platforms, such as Twitch. World No 1 Magnus Carlsen, the Norwegian grandmaster, recently co-founded the chess-viewing platform Take Take Take, which aims to get casual players engaged in tournament broadcasts and is hugely popular with gen Z. Carlsen has 1.7 million followers on Instagram and his social media channels are making the game more **14)** \_\_\_\_\_. There are now live streams on YouTube with expert commentators using the gap between moves to explain the process and options of the players.

“It’s remarkable,” said Malcolm Pein, chief executive of Chess in Schools and Communities, which aims to increase the number of children playing the game in state schools. “TV is a huge factor. In the way that darts and snooker were immensely popular but never **15)** \_\_\_\_\_ big until they were on the telly, the same **16)** \_\_\_\_\_ happening with chess.”

The 2020 Netflix series The Queen’s Gambit, starring Anya Taylor-Joy, was widely credited with a **17)** \_\_\_\_\_ in the game. Pein said: “People are starting to look at the game and all the interesting stories like cheating - which quite honestly is completely exaggerated - but it has given the game a colossal **18)** \_\_\_\_\_ boost.”

Pein added: “Chess is one of the world’s **19)** \_\_\_\_\_ games. It has got a sense of logic that has enabled it to remain the same. Computer games come and go, but chess has been around **20)** \_\_\_\_\_ the 8th century.”

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|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 11) A) have     | B) had       | C) haven’t   | D) hadn’t    | E) would have   |
| 12) A) over     | B) along     | C) spreading | D) covering  | E) across       |
| 13) A) big      | B) bigger    | C) large     | D) larger    | E) widespread   |
| 14) A) flexible | B) viable    | C) promoted  | D) available | E) accessible   |
| 15) A) much     | B) such      | C) that      | D) less      | E) more         |
| 16) A) is       | B) was       | C) will be   | D) would be  | E) won’t be     |
| 17) A) growth   | B) shoot     | C) climb     | D) boom      | E) development  |
| 18) A) viewing  | B) publicity | C) exposure  | D) broadcast | E) advertising  |
| 19) A) old      | B) older     | C) oldest    | D) ancient   | E) more ancient |
| 20) A) for      | B) since     | C) already   | D) during    | E) before       |

### Temperature falls to -18.9C in north Scotland, a 15-year low for UK

Friday was the coldest January night in the UK in 15 years after temperatures **21)** \_\_\_\_\_ to -18.9C in a hamlet in northern Scotland, the Met Office said. Altnaharra, in the Highlands, recorded the temperature on Saturday morning, the Met Office said. It is the coldest January overnight temperature **22)** \_\_\_\_\_ 2010, when temperatures dropped below -15C several times at locations across the UK, including -22.3C on 8 January in Altnaharra.

Much of the UK **23)** \_\_\_\_\_ below freezing temperatures overnight, with the mercury dropping to -11C in Shap, Cumbria, and Heathrow recording -5C. The average low in northern Scotland for this time of year is about 0.3C, **24)** \_\_\_\_\_ for England, overnight lows are about 1.5C to 1.6C.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has extended its cold weather health alert for all of England until Tuesday. Amber alerts have been extended and **25)** \_\_\_\_\_ now run until 14 January, meaning a rise in deaths, particularly among those aged 65 and over or with health conditions, is likely, the agency said. The Met Office meteorologist Zoe Hutin said temperatures were **26)** \_\_\_\_\_ to drop widely to below freezing in eastern areas on Saturday night.

She said: "So another chilly night to come on Saturday, but then as we go into Sunday and into Monday, then we can start to expect temperatures to recover somewhat. "I won't rule **27)** \_\_\_\_\_ the risk of seeing something around or just below freezing again on Sunday night into Monday, but it **28)** \_\_\_\_\_ be quite so dramatic as the temperatures that we're going to experience as we go overnight tonight." Looking ahead to next week, she said: "We're saying it's getting milder but by no stretch does that mean [temperatures] are going to be above average - it just will feel **29)** \_\_\_\_\_ much more pleasant than it is at the moment."

The UK has experienced a "particularly long cold spell", she said, adding: "It has been getting progressively colder each night this week, **30)** \_\_\_\_\_ looking at previous years, we've had maybe two or three days where things have been particularly cold."

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|------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 21) A) reduced   | B) dived     | C) diminished  | D) declined   | E) plummeted     |
| 22) A) in        | B) during    | C) for         | D) since      | E) throughout    |
| 23) A) endured   | B) assumed   | C) put up with | D) felt       | E) measured      |
| 24) A) however   | B) though    | C) while       | D) like       | E) but           |
| 25) A) will      | B) would     | C) can         | D) may        | E) should        |
| 26) A) expected  | B) expecting | C) waiting     | D) measured   | E) measuring     |
| 27) A) on        | B) off       | C) in          | D) out        | E) over          |
| 28) A) will      | B) won't     | C) would       | D) wouldn't   | E) shouldn't     |
| 29) A) likely    | B) relatedly | C) seemingly   | D) apparently | E) comparatively |
| 30) A) meanwhile | B) whereas   | C) however     | D) rather     | E) because       |

### Syrian man dies on dinghy trying to cross Channel

A man from Syria **31)** \_\_\_\_\_ while trying to cross the English Channel from France to the UK, the Government has said. More than 30 people were rescued after a boat got into difficulty in the Channel overnight on Friday, the French Coastguard said. A helicopter and boats were **32)** \_\_\_\_\_ to rescue the 35 migrants, including about 15 who were in the water. The man was pronounced dead at around 4.30am on Saturday, according to French media.

French outlets reported that the migrant **33)** \_\_\_\_\_ died was Syrian and was crushed by other migrants while on a leaky dinghy. The migrants were taken onto a rescue boat and returned to Boulogne-sur-Mer, a major fishing port on the north coast of France, where they were taken care of by land rescue services and the border police, the French coastguard said. One teenager was taken to hospital in a stable **34)** \_\_\_\_\_, it added.

AUK Government spokesman said: “We can confirm there has been a tragic incident involving a small boat on the French coast which has resulted in the loss of one life. Our thoughts are with those **35)** \_\_\_\_\_. “This latest tragedy underlines the terrible dangers of small boat crossings, and we continue to do everything we can to **36)** \_\_\_\_\_ them.

These criminals only care about profit, not the lives they put at risk, which is why they are cramming ever-greater numbers of people on to **37)** \_\_\_\_\_ flimsy and dangerous boats.” The French coastguard also **38)** \_\_\_\_\_ of the dangers of crossing the Channel and said this area is one of the busiest in the world, with more than 600 merchant ships passing through every day.

It comes after figures **39)** \_\_\_\_\_ the number of migrants arriving in the UK in 2024 after crossing the English Channel in small boats was up by a quarter on the previous year. Some 36,816 people made the journey in 2024, a jump of 25 per cent from the 29,437 who arrived in 2023, according to provisional figures from the Home Office. The total is down 20 per cent on the record 45,774 arrivals in 2022, **40)** \_\_\_\_\_.

- 31) A) was dead    B) has died    C) had died    D) was dying    E) would have died
- 32) A) released    B) recruited    C) deployed    D) detached    E) operated
- 33) A) who    B) whom    C) whose    D) which    E) where
- 34) A) state    B) situation    C) attitude    D) condition    E) consciousness
- 35) A) affected    B) affecting    C) effected    D) effecting    E) responsible
- 36) A) avoid    B) outlaw    C) deny    D) forbid    E) prevent
- 37) A) rising    B) raising    C) growing    D) failing    E) increasingly
- 38) A) cautioned    B) warned    C) prevented    D) alerted    E) told
- 39) A) show    B) showed    C) showing    D) would show    E) have showed
- 40) A) but    B) whereas    C) however    D) although    E) on the other hand

## Jeju Air Flight Recorder Stopped Working Before Plane Crash

The flight recorder of the Jeju Air passenger jet that crashed last month, killing 179 people, stopped recording **41)** \_\_\_\_\_ its last four minutes, South Korean officials said on Saturday, a significant setback for investigators.

Data extracted from the so-called black box, consisting of the cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder, is generally **42)** \_\_\_\_\_ in investigations of aviation accidents. Officials in South Korea, who have been working with the United States' National Transportation Safety Board, have said that the flight data for the plane's last four minutes **43)** \_\_\_\_\_ be especially important in this crash. But on Saturday, South Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said that for reasons not yet **44)** \_\_\_\_\_, the black box of the Boeing 737-800 had stopped recording then.

"We **45)** \_\_\_\_\_ to investigate why the data was not recorded," the ministry said in a news release. It also said that other data and analysis would be used to **46)** \_\_\_\_\_ to understand what happened in last month's disaster.

Jeju Air Flight 7C2216, coming from Bangkok with 181 people on board, **47)** \_\_\_\_\_ to land at Muan International Airport in southwestern South Korea at 8:59 a.m. on Dec. 29 when its pilot reported, "Mayday, mayday, mayday," and, "Bird strike, bird strike," according to officials. The pilot also told the air traffic control tower that he was "going around," meaning he would abort his first landing **48)** \_\_\_\_\_ and circle in the air to prepare for a second one.

But he apparently did not have enough time to make a full circle. **49)** \_\_\_\_\_, the plane approached the runway from the opposite direction and landed on its belly, without its landing gear deployed. Seeming unable to control its speed, it overshot the runway. Four minutes after the Mayday emergency report, the plane **50)** \_\_\_\_\_ into a concrete structure off the southern end of the runway and exploded into flames.

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|--------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 41) A) for         | B) since       | C) after   | D) while    | E) along             |
| 42) A) indicative  | B) researched  | C) crucial | D) primary  | E) unavoidable       |
| 43) A) can         | B) should      | C) must    | D) would    | E) likely            |
| 44) A) decided     | B) determined  | C) defined | D) elicited | E) advanced          |
| 45) A) project     | B) analyze     | C) attempt | D) research | E) plan              |
| 46) A) investigate | B) research    | C) analyze | D) manage   | E) try               |
| 47) A) prepared    | B) preparing   | C) ready   | D) prepares | E) was preparing     |
| 48) A) try         | B) attempt     | C) descent | D) effort   | E) touchdown         |
| 49) A) Instead     | B) In contrast | C) However | D) Though   | E) On the other hand |
| 50) A) hit         | B) collided    | C) slammed | D) entered  | E) merged            |

**LA fires: international crews arrive to battle raging wildfires**

Thousands of firefighters labored to contain the four wildfires raging across the Los Angeles area Saturday **51)** \_\_\_\_\_ evening winds forecasted to fan additional flames.

In the Pacific Palisades, incarcerated firefighters dug wide trenches across the charred landscape in an attempt to contain the **52)** \_\_\_\_\_, which has been called the most destructive in the city's history. Across the city, in Altadena, first responders dragged hoses over burned-out cars. In Mandeville Canyon, where the Palisades fire grew closer to the UCLA campus - prompting **53)** \_\_\_\_\_ orders across the Brentwood and Encino neighborhoods - firefighting planes dropped water and retardant in an aggressive aerial attempt to halt the fire's path.

As containment levels on the two largest fires grew, city and county officials began the difficult work of identifying victims. At least 16 **54)** \_\_\_\_\_ were confirmed in the Palisades and Eaton fires Saturday, according to the Los Angeles County medical examiner. Relatives have begun coming **55)** \_\_\_\_\_ to identify the victims, which include several older Black residents of Altadena who refused to leave their longtime homes, and multiple people with disabilities or receiving home healthcare, who could not be moved, **56)** \_\_\_\_\_ an Australian former child actor.

The Los Angeles County sheriff, Robert Luna, said the death **57)** \_\_\_\_\_ is expected to rise as authorities deploy search dogs to devastated areas. The sheriff also said 13 people are reported missing. The fires, which **58)** \_\_\_\_\_ consumed an area about two and a half times the size of Manhattan, have displaced 200,000 people and destroyed more than 12,000 homes and structures, including entire residential neighborhoods. They have also prompted a political brawl — in both Los Angeles and nationally.

On Friday, California's governor, Gavin Newsom, ordered an inquiry into LA county's water management after reports **59)** \_\_\_\_\_ that a critical reservoir was offline when the fires started, leaving some emergency hydrants with low water pressure before running dry. The LA fire chief, Kristin Crowley, has been **60)** \_\_\_\_\_ about how the water supply issues - and budget cuts - "failed" her firefighters.

- |                  |                |              |               |                  |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| 51) A) since     | B) before      | C) while     | D) when       | E) during        |
| 52) A) blaze     | B) flames      | C) burning   | D) ignition   | E) wildfires     |
| 53) A) emergency | B) expulsion   | C) expelling | D) evacuation | E) extinguishing |
| 54) A) injuries  | B) wounded     | C) corpses   | D) fatalities | E) survivors     |
| 55) A) out       | B) in          | C) over      | D) around     | E) forward       |
| 56) A) also      | B) in addition | C) added to  | D) involving  | E) including     |
| 57) A) figure    | B) count       | C) toll      | D) statistic  | E) data          |
| 58) A) have      | B) had         | C) will have | D) would have | E) having        |
| 59) A) sourced   | B) told        | C) rumoured  | D) emerged    | E) developed     |
| 60) A) loud      | B) vocal       | C) noisy     | D) outgoing   | E) reticent      |

**One in five Britons aged 18-45 prefer unelected leaders to democracy poll finds**

One in five generation Z and millennial Britons prefer strong leaders without elections to democracy, and voters overall are feeling **61)** \_\_\_\_\_ about politics, a report has found.

The polling, **62)** \_\_\_\_\_ to be published next week as part of the FGS Global Radar report, found that overall 14% of people agreed with the statement: “The best system for running a country effectively is a strong leader who doesn’t have to **63)** \_\_\_\_\_ with elections,” rather than the alternative: “The best system for **64)** \_\_\_\_\_ a country effectively is democracy.” That rose to 21% of people aged between 18 and 45, who answered that the best system was a strong leader without elections. In **65)** \_\_\_\_\_, only 8% of people over 55 preferred that system to democracy.

The report’s findings, that a sizeable minority of under-45s are unconvinced by the need for elections, come as some electorates have been opting for populist leaders, such as Donald Trump, through the **66)** \_\_\_\_\_ box, and the billionaire Elon Musk has been wielding power over public debate by shaping what is seen on his social media platform X.

Last week, the FT reported that Musk, who **67)** \_\_\_\_\_ appointed by Trump to help overhaul the public sector, had privately discussed with allies how Keir Starmer could be removed as UK prime minister before the next general election, in a move that **68)** \_\_\_\_\_ constitute an intervention into British democracy.

**69)** \_\_\_\_\_ last year bringing a Labour landslide, changing the government in the UK, and delivering a second Trump administration in the US, nearly one in four voters said they thought voting did not make a difference. Those **70)** \_\_\_\_\_ disillusioned with voting were aged 25 to 44, with three in 10 saying it made no difference.

- |                 |              |              |               |                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 61) A) dreary   | B) downbeat  | C) detached  | D) depressed  | E) downtrodden |
| 62) A) due      | B) forecast  | C) projected | D) predicted  | E) required    |
| 63) A) worry    | B) manage    | C) win       | D) cope       | E) bother      |
| 64) A) running  | B) ordering  | C) managing  | D) organizing | E) regulating  |
| 65) A) fact     | B) reality   | C) polling   | D) contrast   | E) addition    |
| 66) A) election | B) voting    | C) ballot    | D) survey     | E) research    |
| 67) A) must be  | B) should be | C) has been  | D) was being  | E) would be    |
| 68) A) could    | B) may       | C) must      | D) will       | E) would       |
| 69) A) With     | B) Though    | C) After     | D) Despite    | E) While       |
| 70) A) more     | B) most      | C) greatly   | D) less       | E) least       |

## New Yorkers Have Little Data but Big Feelings About Congestion Pricing

It's too soon to know **71)** \_\_\_\_\_ New York City's new congestion pricing plan has succeeded in reducing traffic in Manhattan. And it will be a **72)** \_\_\_\_\_ before we know if the new fees will raise the billions of dollars proponents have promised. But even before the hard data arrives, New Yorkers (and those who commute to New York) have had a lot to say.

Some public transit commuters report buses miraculously arriving **73)** \_\_\_\_\_ or (gasp) early. Drivers are either steaming mad — or agog at traffic-free bridges. Many pedestrians say they are suddenly less anxious about crossing the street. And some former congestion pricing haters are startled to find themselves **74)** \_\_\_\_\_.

The first-in-the-nation plan took effect this week after years of contentious debate. Most drivers now pay \$9 to enter Manhattan below 60th Street. Money collected from the toll is **75)** \_\_\_\_\_ to be used to improve public transportation.

Congestion pricing arrived at the same time as a stretch of brutally cold weather in New York, so it's **76)** \_\_\_\_\_ unclear what has been keeping people out of their cars and off the streets. But Ilena Robbins, 37, believes congestion pricing has already been **77)** \_\_\_\_\_.

It is not hyperbole to say that crossing Canal Street, a notoriously clogged east-west thoroughfare with four — and in some places six — lanes, **78)** \_\_\_\_\_ make her fear for her life.

Ms. Robbins, who **79)** \_\_\_\_\_ in Manhattan but now lives in Queens, compared navigating the intersection where she works, at Canal and Lafayette Streets, to a game of Frogger — at least in the old days. “It would stress me out just getting lunch,” she said. Thursday was her first day there post-congestion pricing. “I couldn't believe it,” she said. “I was able to cross safely, and cars **80)** \_\_\_\_\_ honking. It was like a whole other world.”

- |                   |                |                |               |                   |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 71) A) when       | B) why         | C) where       | D) whether    | E) how long       |
| 72) A) time       | B) period      | C) while       | D) moment     | E) duration       |
| 73) A) on time    | B) before      | C) late        | D) delayed    | E) punctual       |
| 74) A) worrying   | B) revising    | C) disagreeing | D) moderating | E) reconsidering  |
| 75) A) said       | B) stated      | C) supposed    | D) assumed    | E) allocated      |
| 76) A) still      | B) yet         | C) already     | D) always     | E) rather         |
| 77) A) economical | B) significant | C) important   | D) impressive | E) transformative |
| 78) A) should     | B) didn't      | C) will        | D) ought to   | E) used to        |
| 79) A) born       | B) brought up  | C) raised      | D) grew up    | E) dwelled        |
| 80) A) aren't     | B) weren't     | C) wouldn't be | D) should be  | E) used to be     |