

# CONCOURS ATS 2001

## EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS – OPTION

*DUREE : 1H30*

### **I. Structure of the language and vocabulary**

Choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

1) .....done it if I had asked you?

- a) would you                      b) had you                      c) did you                      d) would you have

2) I met him ..... the holidays.

- a) on                      b) during                      c) in                      d) for

3) I haven't seen you ..... years, do you ..... play the piano?

- a) for/still                      b) since/always                      c) during/ever                      ) while/often

4) I wish you ..... next week.

- a) came                      b) come                      c) had come                      d) will come

5) Why not ..... him?

- a) asking                      b) to ask                      c) ask                      d) have asked

6) She didn't do it .....

- a) herself                      b) itself                      c) on its own                      d) himself

7) Inflation has increased ..... 5%.

- a) of                      b) by                      c) in                      d) from

8) Tell them .....

- a) to not call                      b) not call                      c) not to call                      d) not calling

9) Remember .... the letter, it's very important.

- a) to post                      b) posting                      c) post                      d) not post

10) He left early, he ..... home by now.

- a) can                      b) would                      c) mustn't                      d) should

11) "Open the door, ..... ?"

- a) shall I            b) won't you            c) will you            d) don't you

12) This train will call ..... every station between London and Plymouth.

- a) in            b) from            c) by            d) at

13) Which of these two books will you buy? The ..... one?

- a) cheap            b) cheapest            c) cheaper            d) least cheap

14) .....it's far, I'll go.

- a) However            b) Although            c) Despite            d) Whereas

15) He ..... his start-up last year.

- a) founded            b) found            c) had founded            d) had found

16) The older he gets, ..... he needs to sleep.

- a) the more often            b) the most often            c) more often            d) oftener

17) I am used ..... coffee after dinner;

- a) to drink            b) to drinking            c) drink            d) drinking

18) She doesn't agree ..... this.

- a) doing            b) do            c) to doing            d) to do

19) I don't care much ..... beer.

- a) for            b) of            c) to            d) after

20) They will never have .....time to do it.

- a) rather            b) much            c) some            d) enough

21) I visited ..... city in 2 days.

- a) all the            b) all            c) the whole            d) all of

22) At first .....it's not difficult.

- a) view            b) glance            c) sight            d) time

23) ..... he saw her, he cried.

- a) whenever            b) all the time            c) all the times            d) everyday

24) How long .....

- a) did they get married
- b) have they married
- c) are they married
- d) have they been married

25) I met her ..... in London.

- a) hazardous
- b) at random
- c) randomly
- d) by chance

26) He ..... all the classes this semester.

- a) assisted to
- b) attended
- c) assisted
- d) insisted

27) ..... I would marry her.

- a) I knew little
- b) little did I know
- c) I knew a lot
- d) I know

28) I suggest you ..... next week.

- a) come
- b) to come
- c) came
- d) will come

29) "Attendance is compulsory" means:

- a) it is an obligation to go to classes
- b) it is optional to go to classes
- c) it is not mandatory to go to classes
- d) there is a waiting list

30) If only he .....less.

- a) drinks
- b) drink
- c) will drink
- d) drank

31) I can't find my passport. I .....it at the hotel.

- a) must leave
- b) may let
- c) must have left
- d) let

32) I am satisfied ..... the new arrangements.

- a) about
- b) of
- c) with
- d) by

33) How long .....her?

- a) have you known
- b) do you know
- c) you know
- d) you knew

34) I'd rather you .....her.

- a) ask                      b) asked                      c) will ask                      d) do ask

35) This document ..... the issue of globalisation.

- a) rises                      b) arises                      c) raises                      d) deals

36) Several problems have ..... recently.

- a) raised                      b) risen                      c) arisen                      d) arose

37) "I swear to tell the truth ,.....truth.

- a) all                      b) all the                      c) the whole                      d) the absolute

38) ..... John was present at the meeting.

- a) Nobody but                      b) Seldom                      c) But                      d) Rarely

39) The doctor examined the patient .....

- a) absolutely                      b) thoroughly                      c) fixedly                      d) easily

40) I haven't heard.....John lately, is he still in Paris?

- a) of                      b) to                      c) from                      d) about

## II. Equivalent Expressions

Find the word(s) which is/are closest in meaning to the underlined word(s).

41) "She stared at him", means:

- a) she was angry                      b) she blushed                      c) she shouted                      d) she looked at him fixedly

42) "It turned out to be true", means:

- a) it finally proved to be true
- b) it finally proved to be false
- c) it was not true
- d) it was exaggerated

43) "Have you seen him lately", means:

- a) lastly
- b) recently
- c) at last
- d) late

44) Actually he is the President.

- a) in fact
- b) currently
- c) now
- d) formerly

45) He gave in, means:

- a) yielded
- b) resisted
- c) lied
- d) offered

46) He finally made it, means:

- a) did it
- b) succeeded
- c) gave it up
- d) finished it

47) It's "a piece of cake", means:

- a) easy
- b) difficult
- c) uneasy
- d) sweet

48) It hardly rains in the desert.

- a) harshly
- b) shortly
- c) intermittently
- d) seldom

49) I can't put up with this, means:

- a) support
- b) wear
- c) bear
- d) tear

50) Will you put out your cigarette?

- a) extinguish
- b) switch off
- c) take out
- d) throw

### III. Comprehension

Fill in the gaps with the most suitable word.

#### Biography of E=mc

"In 1905 Einstein 51 four papers that 52 changed the course of science and the way we understand the universe. He was 26 at the time, stuck in a dreary job at a Swiss patent office. One of those papers contained the equation  $E=mc$  (in 53 E is energy, m is mass and c is the speed of light). The equation simply 54 that energy and mass are 55 .

All matter possesses latent energy; to work out 56, you 57 its mass by the speed of light 58. The speed of light is roughly 670 million 59 an hour, so that the resulting 60 will of course be 61. Which means that even a very small 62 of mass may be converted into a stupendous amount of energy.

The terrible 63 power of the atomic bomb is only the most famous 64 of Einstein's insight. In fact, his tidy equation helps to explain all kinds of cosmic phenomena, from the nature of 65, light and electromagnetism to the circumstances of the Big Bang and how the sun 66 “.

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- 51) a) advertised            b) studied            c) explained            d) published
- 52) a) fundamentally        b) highly            c) hardly            d) slightly
- 53) a) which                b) this                c) that                d) what
- 54) a) acts                 b) gives                c) solves                d) states
- 55) a) incomparable        b) incompatible  
      c) interchangeable        d) adjustable
- 56) a) how                 b) how much        c) how many        d) how long
- 57) a) multiply              b) add                c) divide              d) define
- 58) a) cubed                b) doubled            c) squared            d) halved
- 59) a) feet                 b) miles                c) knots                d) yards
- 60) a) result                b) digit                c) solution            d) figure
- 61) a) huge                 b) tiny                c) minimum            d) negligible
- 62) a) figure                b) amount            c) total                d) area
- 63) a) destructive         b) constructive        c) instructive        d) fearful
- 64) a) explanation         b) implication        c) writing              d) application
- 65) a) mass                 b) volume             c) gravity              d) travel
- 66) a) works                b) shines              c) sets                d) rises

Read the following texts and choose the answer that best corresponds to the text .Give only one answer per question

## **Can France Keep Competitive?**

“There was much scepticism when France decided in 1998 to reduce the standard work-week from 39 to 35 hours, but the provisional results after two years of negotiations and partial implementation look relatively positive. New jobs are indeed being created, as the framers of the legislation had intended.. At the same time, many employers have obtained more flexible work practices and pay restraint from their workers to counter the effects of a shorter working week.

“So far, the effects of the 35-hour working week have been more benign than many people initially thought would be the case,” says Patrick Lenain, an economist with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. “Cost increases have been limited by greater flexibility in working practices, including the possibility to measure working hours across a full year instead of on a weekly or monthly basis; and there have been productivity gains. However, such cost-saving practices will be difficult to arrange in small enterprises when they apply the 35-hour workweek starting in January 2002.”

Other question marks remain. For example, in September and October, consultants Ernst & Young carried out an inquiry on behalf of the French employers’ federation, Medef, on the relative attractions of France to foreign investors. The inquiry involved questioning top management in 350 French subsidiaries of international companies.

### **Investors cite disadvantages**

When asked about the principal disadvantages of France as an investment site, 83 percent of respondents mentioned the 35 hour working week, placing it at number three in a list of nine negative factors. The two more frequently mentioned issues were tax and social security charges, and structural rigidities.

“Most of the questions about the 35-hour workweek that we have received from potential foreign investors concern procedural issues, such as how the legislation is to be applied and how related government subsidies can be obtained,” says an official with the French government’s Invest in France Bureau. “We have not registered any fundamental fall-off in international investor interest”, he adds.

### **Inventive Incentives**

Employers have been imaginative in the way agreements to introduce the 35-hour week are structured. For example, beauty products manufacturer L’Oreal allows employees to invest additional rest days in a “time savings account” for use in the future or to receive payment in the form of cash or investment in a corporate mutual fund.

Says Jean-Paul Fitoussi, president of the *Observatoire Francais de la Conjoncture Economique*: “In the period July 1997 to the end of 2001, France will have created something like 1.6 million new jobs. Expansion in the economy will have been the main reason for this, with the 35-hour workweek accounting for only 350,000 or so of this total.” Longer weekends could be one of the lasting monuments to the 35-hour week initiative. “We don’t have any reliable figures yet, but there seems to be a gradual drop in the number of people using public transport on Fridays, especially in the afternoon,” says a spokesperson for the RATP, the Paris regional transport authority.”

67) When the decision was made to reduce the working week to 35 hours, people :

- a) Were enthusiastic
- b) Had doubts
- c) Were opposed
- d) Were biased

68) The original intention was...

- a) to be partial
- b) to enforce the law
- c) to create new jobs
- d) to fight employment

69) Workers have accepted....

- a) lower wages
- b) higher wages
- c) shorter working days
- d) unemployment

70) Working hours can also be measured...

- a) annually
- b) flexibly
- c) totally
- d) increasingly

71) Productivity

- a) has stagnated
- b) has decreased
- c) has increased
- d) has plummeted

72) According to the inquiry the principal disadvantage for foreign investors was :

- a) structural rigidities
- b) investment
- c) the 35-hour week
- d) tax and social security charges

73) Foreign investors...

- a) have obtained subsidies
- b) have sent an application
- c) are still showing their interest in France
- d) are registered internationally

74) In 3 years the 35-hour week will have created :

- a) 1.6 million new jobs
- b) 350,000
- c) more jobs than expected
- d) no reliable figures are available

## **Go Easy on Text Messages**

“Wireless communications have advanced with such bewildering speed that it is hardly surprising WAP has failed to match some optimists’ expectations.

Accessing the internet from a mobile telephone can be painfully slow. Using the keypad to tap in text is fiddly and laborious because keys carry several letters. That means that to enter a C or L, for example; requires three strokes. Receiving e-mail is much easier than sending it – but reading anything more than the most terse messages on such minute screens is uncomfortable. Connections are too frequently broken, forcing the user to start again.

But for the business traveller, needing only to keep an eye on flight delays or book a last-minute hotel room or rental car, the technology already works reasonably well. Phone manufacturers point out that once a web address has been entered, it can be book-marked, saving the need to go through the whole tedious process again.

The only truly satisfactory answer to the problem of entering text may be the integration of phones with palmtop personal digital assistants (PDAs) which can either have small, built-in conventional keyboards or can be connected with full-size, light-weights, fold-out versions. But faster data transmission speeds are on the way which should ensure that other early disappointments are gradually overcome.

Airlines, in particular, have been quick to spot WAP’s potential. Swissair passengers can check in wirelessly and get details of any flight changes. Delta is also sending customers details of delays or gate changes via SAP phones and palmtops. Such services are generally available only to frequent flyers and in the carriers’ home countries, but the travel industry’s general eagerness to embrace WAP hardly suggests abject failure. Travellers can make reservations on more than 500 airlines from anywhere in the world in a process which takes about two minutes.

The story so far is summarised by Richard Jacklin who is managing director of UK-based internet consultancy Websentience and an “intermittent” business traveller. “WAP phones are fairly clunky and slow,” he says. “I tend to use mine only to check the weather and traffic reports.

“I think a lot of the bad publicity surrounding WAP arises because people are trying to force the wrong type of information through the system. Trying to deliver a lot of text on a screen that small is not a good idea. But for a simple, step-by-step process such as

booking a flight it could be more effective. I only recently acquired mine, and I haven't done that yet – but I intend to.”

An alternative to WAP is I-mode, developed by the Japanese company NTT DoCoMo, which allows the user to maintain internet contact rather than establish it afresh each time. It has caught on in Japan, where it has won 13m users since its launch nearly two years ago, but so far I-mode has failed to gain a significant foothold in overseas markets. That could change following a strategic deal between NTT DoCoMo and America Online.

By next year, says Tapio Hedman, communications vice-president of Finland's Nokia, the advent of GPRS (general packet radio service) technology, which boosts data speeds, should start allowing WAP users to stay similarly connected.

He points to industry figures suggesting that the number of web pages available to WAP users has risen tenfold this year to around 300,000. “Initial expectations have been a bit exaggerated,” he says, “but WAP has done exactly what we foresaw it would.”

Some sceptics fear that if phone channels are saturated, GPRS may not prove as fast as the telecoms industry hopes. But Mr. Hedman says:” we think it will be an extremely beneficial enhancement for users.”

Colin Ellis, senior product manager at Ericsson, agrees; “There has been some over-hyping. If you look at what WAP was designed to do, it does that well.” But he accepts that the time it takes to log on using existing phones is simply too long for business travellers in a hurry. GPRS will solve the problem, it is thought. “It will provide the same speeds you get with a landline, and you'll always be online.”

75) “It is painfully slow” means :

- a) it hurts
- b) it is so slow that it is annoying
- c) it is not so slow
- d) it is fiddly

76) “minute” screens means :

- a) the screens are bigger than before
- b) the screens are very small
- c) they are uncomfortable
- d) it takes a minute to read a message

77) How can the problem of entering text be solved?

- a) by hiring a personal assistant
- b) by connecting your phone to the network
- c) by using a conventional keyboard connected to your phone
- d) there is no satisfactory solution

78) According to the text :

- a) people are not using the WAP adequately
- b) WAP gives wrong information
- c) the small screen is not a good idea
- d) WAP is more effective when you fly

79) I-mode...

- a) was brought to Japan 2 years ago
- b) was invented in Japan
- c) is developing rapidly across the world
- d) is used mainly overseas

80) Web pages available to WAP users ...

- a) have been multiplied by 10
- b) have increased by 10%
- c) have decreased by 100%
- d) have doubled