

General Certificate of Education  
June 2003  
Advanced Level Examination



**FRENCH** **FR6T and FR6V**  
**Unit 6 Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**Examiner's Material**

To be conducted by the teacher examiner between 28 April and 23 May 2003 (FR6T)  
To be conducted by the visiting examiner between 28 April and 13 June 2003 (FR6V)

Time allowed: 35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time)

**Instructions**

- During the 20 minutes preparation time candidates are required to prepare **one** of the two reporting and discussion cards given to them.
- Candidates may make notes during the preparation time only on the Supplementary Answer Sheet provided. **They must not write on the card.**
- Candidates should take the reporting and discussion card with them into the examination room. They may refer to the card and any notes they have made at any time during the reporting and discussion section of the test.
- Candidates should hand the reporting and discussion card and the Supplementary Answer Sheet to the examiner before the start of the conversation section of the test.

**Information**

- The test will last approximately 15 minutes and will consist of a reporting and discussion card and a conversation based on topics studied during the A2 course.
- Candidates will be expected to respond to questions and discuss in **French** issues arising from the chosen card.
- The use of dictionaries is **not** permitted.

**Text 1****The State and the Individual**

# Asylum-seekers head for Britain

EUROTUNNEL is expecting further mass attempts by asylum-seekers to enter Britain through the Channel Tunnel after French riot police foiled an attempt by a mob of more than 500 to cross illegally into Britain on Christmas Day.

An estimated 530 immigrants, who had been staying at a Red Cross centre in Sangatte, near Calais, provoked a huge security alert on both sides of the Channel as they attempted to storm the entrance to Eurotunnel's Coquelles terminal late on Tuesday night. At 8.10pm, 129 immigrants tried to take advantage of the reduced services operating on Christmas Day to sneak through the tunnel. They broke through fencing, overpowered guards and walked six miles into the tunnel before being headed off by police, who had gone ahead of them along a service tunnel.

Three hours later about 500 police used tear-gas to force back a further 400 immigrants. Forty were arrested, and train services suspended for ten hours. Others have been returned to Sangatte, and are expected to make further crossing attempts.

Earlier yesterday Eurotunnel said that Tuesday's incident showed why France should close Sangatte, which has been described as a "departure lounge" for gangs that smuggle illegal immigrants into Britain. The company recognised the need for a holding camp for asylum-seekers, but questioned the need to locate it little more than a mile from the entrance to the tunnel.

In Tuesday evening's mass intrusion into the tunnel, the first wave of 129 refugees scaled three outer fences around the terminal and pulled down a section of the electrified inner fence. They covered the fence with blankets so they could walk over it. Eurotunnel has spent £6 million increasing security at the terminal near Calais since the summer. The number of illegal immigrants reaching Britain through the Channel Tunnel has fallen, owing to tighter security at Eurotunnel and the war on terrorism.

On Christmas Eve there were 1,294 people in the camp.

*Source: © The Times, 27 December 2001*

**Questions à poser:**

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Que s'est-il passé mardi soir?
- Selon Eurotunnel, comment devrait-on réagir à cet incident?
- Que dit-on dans l'article sur le nombre d'immigrés qui arrivent en Grande-Bretagne par ce moyen?
- A votre avis, devrait-on aider les demandeurs d'asile? Pourquoi? Pourquoi pas?

## Text 2

## Health Issues

# French health service is best

In which leading European country is there the widest gap between the standard of care available to the poor and that enjoyed by the rich? The answer is the UK: the rich can always take care of themselves, but the poor rely on the government and in this country the state provides only a low standard.

Take France as an example. France has a reputation for central direction but French healthcare is based on a compromise between egalitarianism and liberalism. All citizens are said to be equal; yet, choice and competition are fiercely protected.

In France, individuals can identify how much they are paying and decide if the cost is justified. Consequently, the standard of care guaranteed by the state reflects the individual's personal preferences. And it is this high standard of care which is made available to all. France performs well on almost all health status measures, and according to the World Health Organisation France's health system came top in the year 2000.

Compulsory health insurance covers the whole population. Contributions are calculated as a percentage of income. The insurers are non-government, non-profit agencies, which owe their allegiance to employers (who pay about two-thirds of the premium) and employees. In addition to their compulsory contribution (6.8% of salaries), most employees pay an additional voluntary 2.5% of their salary to a mutual insurer.

The French enjoy choice of doctor, whether a *généraliste* (GP) or a specialist, and typically pay their doctor's fee and then claim back 75–80%. It is recognised that payment might deter the poorest people from seeking care and so about 6m people are not expected to pay. All patients may go directly to a specialist either outside or within a hospital.

French national insurance makes no distinction between public and private hospitals and patients have complete freedom of choice. Public hospitals provide about 65% of beds and the remainder are private (about 20% are for-profit and about 15% non-profit).

Source: © *The Guardian*, February 2001

## Questions à poser:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Pourquoi est-ce que les pauvres sont désavantagés au Royaume-Uni?
- Que dit-on dans l'article sur le niveau de soins médicaux en France?
- Dans le système français, comment est-ce qu'on traite ceux qui n'ont pas beaucoup d'argent?
- A votre avis est-ce que les soins médicaux devraient être complètement gratuits?

## Text 3

## Racism

# RACE ROW AS POLICE BEAT UP COMEDIAN

A hugely popular young French comedian and television presenter of Moroccan origin was recovering in hospital yesterday after allegedly being beaten unconscious by police late on New Year's Day. The incident is bound to increase tensions between France's notoriously heavy-handed police, who have been found guilty of brutality and even torture in recent European court rulings, and the country's large north African community.

The anti-racist group SOS-Racisme lost no time in condemning a 'revolting act that reveals the shameful practices of police officers who clearly believe themselves above the law'. The group said the police 'had it in for an Arab who has managed to succeed'. Jamel Debbouze, aged 23, the hero of a generation of young immigrants for his rise to stardom from a depressed council estate north of Paris, had just completed a sell-out run of one-man shows and was on his way home.

A police source said that Mr Debbouze, driving a Mercedes carrying his brother Karim and his assistant, Nadia Mourine, had ignored a traffic policeman's instructions to steer clear of a convoy of heavy transporters carrying Paris's millennium ferris wheels from the Champs Elysées. 'He was driving fast and dangerously,' the source said. 'He was asked for his papers while the car was stopped at a red light, and refused. Things seem to have got heated when he was told to get out of the car.'

Nadia Mourine said the policemen had ordered Mr Debbouze to drive through a red light, and had then dragged him out of the car violently when he replied: 'You should ask a little more politely.' 'The cop opened the door and dragged Jamel out, threw him out. He slammed him against the car three times,' she said. 'Then there was a crowd of traffic cops around him, one hit him on the neck with a walkie-talkie and another in the stomach with a truncheon. Jamel fainted, he just fell to the ground.'

Police investigators questioned the officers involved and are today expected to interview Mr Debbouze – who has yet to file a complaint.

Source: © *The Guardian*, January 2000

### Questions à poser:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Que dit-on sur les rapports entre la police et la communauté nord-africaine en France?
- Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé à Jamel Debbouze?
- Selon Nadia Mourine, quelle était l'attitude des policiers?
- D'après ce que vous en savez, comment les immigrants vivent-ils en France?

## Text 4

## Transport Issues

# Vive la différence

**Stuart Jeffries, who moved from London to Paris six months ago, weighs up the merits of the two capitals**

In Paris, public transport isn't a joke. Private transport is. Only a fool would use a car to negotiate the Place de la Concorde. Only an idiot with an absurdist British sense of humour and a large helmet would cycle to work.

I often cycle to work, threading through constipated streets where white vans park insouciantly in the middle of the road and, in the traffic jam behind, drivers lean on their horns.

When I don't cycle I go to work by metro, 100 years old last year and a gleaming affront to the tube. It's hard not to get proprietorial about the metro because money has been properly lavished on it and because people with good taste designed its stations. All the candidates in Paris's mayoral elections this weekend know that one of them will inherit an underground railway network that works – a luxury Ken Livingstone never had.

Thus the Socialist party candidate, Bertrand Delanoë, has been free to come up with visionary public transport schemes safe in the knowledge that the basic infrastructure is in fine working order. He has proposed a tramway system and the rejuvenation of a disused railway line around Paris, both of which would link up with the metro. He is in the happy position of planning to make Paris public transport better, rather than striving to make it merely adequate. It's things like this that give Parisians civic pride and Londoners a justified inferiority complex.

A book of 10 tickets costs £5.80, a monthly pass £28.50 and there's none of this nonsense about zones. It isn't at all constipated, and the last metro-wide strike was in 1995.

In London, public transport is a joke. When I lived there I had to cycle to work – anything else was hopeless. The car? Journey times too unpredictable, parking too expensive, contribution to environment woeful. The tube? Journey times too unpredictable, likely proximity to other strap-hangers' armpits offputting. The bus? Are you kidding?

Public transport is the most obvious example of the differences between the two capitals. Paris is a city that works; London a place where they can't put a bridge across the river without it wobbling dangerously.

*Source: © The Guardian, March 2001*

## Questions à poser:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Que dit le journaliste au sujet du métro parisien?
- Comment Bertrand Delanoë envisage-t-il le développement des transports en commun à Paris?
- Selon l'article, en quoi Paris est-il différent de Londres?
- Pourquoi, de nos jours, est-ce qu'on attache tant d'importance aux transports?

## Text 5

## Distribution of Wealth

# DOWN AND OUT IN THE COLD IN PARIS

France was forced to delve deep into its social conscience this week, after 10 homeless people died of hypothermia, one of them outside the doors of a hospital, in a cold snap in which temperatures in central Paris plummeted to minus 6°C.

As the death toll rose, President Jacques Chirac warned: "In this crucial period, everyone should feel personally concerned. The simple gesture of pointing out a person in danger could save a life." The employment and solidarity minister, Martine Aubry, exhorted every French man and woman to open their eyes to the suffering.

According to official estimates, France, which boasts one of the best-funded welfare systems in western Europe, has 500,000 people who are either homeless or without a fixed address. The number of emergency hostel beds totals 15,000 – more than double the figure 10 years ago, and almost enough, social workers say, to deal with demand. But not quite.

"It is a scandal that in 1998, men and women are still living and dying in the street."

An estimated 10 per cent of France's 60 million people currently live below the poverty line. More than 3 million are unemployed, some 6 million receive welfare handouts, 2 million are poorly housed and around 250,000 are estimated to be homeless.

"There are enough beds now," said Patrick Hervé, manager of the 380-bed Mie de Pain hostel in the 8th arrondissement. "No one should be freezing to death on the street. But so many don't know where to go."

With the temperature in the capital back above zero yesterday, Stéphane, a vagrant, aged 37, begging outside Concorde metro station, agreed that beds were not the issue.

"Sure, you can find one," he said. "But the decent hostels are full by three or four in the afternoon and you have to trail all round the city looking for a mattress. That's our life – we trail around for food, for a bed, for our laundry. It's not surprising, when it gets to midnight and it's minus 6, that some people just give up."

Source: © *The Guardian*, November 1988

## Questions à poser:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Qu'est-ce que le Président Jacques Chirac a dit au sujet de cet incident?
- De quel scandale parle-t-on dans l'article?
- Comment est la vie de Stéphane?
- Quelles solutions proposeriez-vous pour réduire ce genre de pauvreté?

## Text 6

## Crime and Punishment

# Europe divided over teen crime

It started out with fairly low-key stuff: a jumper stolen here, a pair of trainers there. Djafar was nine at the time. A policeman grabbed him by the collar, took him home to his housing estate in the northern suburbs of Marseilles and confronted his parents. The row, Djafar remembers, was frightening. But it did not stop him.

Three years later, with a group of older boys, he stripped a France Telecom store of cash, pagers and mobile phones. 'The bigger guys asked me to pass the gear out,' he said. 'They knew that, if I was arrested, I wouldn't be punished.'

From there it was a short step to late-model BMWs and Mercedes, Djafar wriggling through the roof of the lock-up garages to let his mates inside. Now Djafar is 16. He is into credit-card theft in an organised way, and if there is, as there is most weeks, trouble on the estate – cars to be torched, cops to be stoned – he will be there.

Of 2,000 youths between the ages of 15 and 19 in the run-down concrete high-rises where he still lives with his Comoros-born parents, two-thirds have a police record.

'It's normal,' he said. 'You want money. You need smart gear. You want to show off. It's like a drug, it's like cigarettes – you say you're going to give up and the next day you go out and buy a packet of Marlboro. And the police can't really do anything. There's the re-education centre, but I've got mates who've waited 18 months before there's been room.'

In his New Year's address last week, Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, declared juvenile delinquency to be his government's highest priority after unemployment. The toughest cases, the repeat offenders, must be 'removed from their environment', he said. The Interior Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, went further, calling for the creation of youth detention centres and demanding that state benefits be withdrawn from families who fail to control their 'little savages'.

Provisional police statistics for 1998 underlined it: reported incidents of juvenile delinquency, from graffiti to murder, rose by more than 11 per cent last year, with 155,000 youths involved compared with 138,000 in 1997. The figures have doubled since 1992, and juvenile crime now makes up 25 per cent of all police cases.

Source: © *The Guardian*, January 1999

## Questions à poser:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Quels sont les crimes que Djafar a commis avant l'âge de 16 ans?
- Comment Djafar justifie-t-il ses actes criminels?
- Quelle est l'attitude du gouvernement français envers la délinquance juvénile?
- A votre avis, quelles mesures devrait-on prendre pour résoudre ce problème?