

FRENCH

9094/06

Paper 6 Transfer of Meaning

October/November 2019

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.
DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **all** questions.
Write your answers in **French**. You should keep to any word limits given in the questions.
Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

LISEZ D'ABORD CES INSTRUCTIONS

Si vous avez une feuille-réponse suivez les instructions données sur cette feuille.
Écrivez le numéro de votre centre, votre numéro de candidat et votre nom sur chaque feuille que vous rendez à la fin de l'examen.
Écrivez en bleu foncé ou en noir.
N'utilisez ni agrafes, ni trombones, ni colle, ni liquide correcteur.
N'ÉCRIVEZ PAS SUR LES CODES-BARRES.

Répondez à **toutes** les questions.
Écrivez vos réponses **en français**. Vous devez respecter le nombre de mots proposés pour une tâche.
L'utilisation des dictionnaires **n'est pas** permise.

À la fin de l'examen, attachez bien toutes vos feuilles ensemble.
Le nombre de points est indiqué entre parenthèses [] à la fin de chaque question ou partie de question.

This document consists of 4 printed pages.

Section 1

A French friend has found this article on a new law concerning work-life balance and has asked you for clarification.

The start of the New Year will also be the dawn of a new era in French employment law. For some time, the government has been concerned about the stubborn refusal of the disappointing unemployment rate to improve. In order to address this, laws will be introduced, which will lead to the erosion of workers' rights in larger organisations. These laws will give companies more freedom to change conditions, such as working hours and pay, without the need for formal agreements with trade unions. It will also be easier for them to make decisions about hiring and dismissing employees. These laws, not unsurprisingly, have encountered much criticism from trade unions.

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One measure in the package has, however, been cautiously welcomed by the majority of workers. All organisations employing in excess of 50 people will have to discuss with them the right to ignore electronic communications outside working hours. The agreement should aim to decide the times when messages can be sent or answered. This should mean a reduction in unpaid overtime and an improvement in work–life balance. This may also lead to an improvement in personal relationships, better sleep patterns and a greater sense of well-being.

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Not everybody will want to implement the restrictions on electronic communications. Work completed outside normal working hours can be a help to some. Flexibility to choose when to deal with emails and texts can be an advantage to those with children for example. Pierre Dumarchais told us, 'Being a single parent, the ability to do some of my work in the evenings gives me the time to collect the children and to prepare the evening meal.' Others welcome the opportunity to complete some tasks while commuting to or from work: 'Reading and writing emails while on the train is just a sensible use of my time,' was the view of one office manager.

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Surveys suggest that managers are spending an average of one day per week dealing with communications. Half of that time is thought to be devoted to reading and answering emails which are not relevant to the particular person. If this law resulted in the reduction of the amount of unnecessary communication, it would save industry a considerable sum of money. The likelihood is, however, that this will not happen. The result may be that other necessary tasks will need to be completed outside normal working hours, if emails are to be the priority during the week.

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For people outside France, issues over work–life balance may well come as a surprise. French working practices have usually been perceived as benefitting the workforce. The 35-hour week is looked on with envy by employees in the UK and America, and the long lunch breaks are also much spoken about. The impression is one of a rather lazy, carefree lifestyle, which is actually contrary to the facts. Despite the benefits enjoyed by employees, productivity rates are significantly higher than in many other industrialised nations. This could be explained by levels of stress, which surveys suggest are relatively low in France. Other working advantages, such as contributions towards travel costs, generous maternity payments and holiday vouchers may also act as an encouragement to maintain levels of productivity.

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1 Répondez **en français** aux questions suivantes :

- (a) Qu'est-ce qu'on apprend au sujet des nouvelles lois sur l'emploi en France ? (premier paragraphe) [3]
- (b) Pourquoi la majorité des travailleurs se réjouissent-ils du projet de loi sur la communication électronique ? (deuxième paragraphe) [3]
- (c) Pourquoi est-ce que tout le monde ne sera pas satisfait de la mise en place de ces restrictions ? (troisième paragraphe) [3]
- (d) Pourquoi cette mesure est-elle importante, et quels en seraient en réalité les effets ? (quatrième paragraphe) [3]

[Pour cette question, 12 points sont accordés pour le contenu, et 4 points pour la qualité de l'expression en français.]

[Total: 16]

2 Donnez vos réactions personnelles aux **trois** idées du dernier paragraphe que vous trouvez les plus intéressantes.

N'écrivez pas plus de 140 mots **en tout**.

[Pour cette question, 10 points sont accordés pour le contenu et 14 points pour la qualité de l'expression en français.]

[Total: 24]

Turn over for Question 3

Section 2**3** Traduisez le texte suivant **en français**.

It was at precisely 3 o'clock in the afternoon that the train came into the station. With a smile, André felt the earth tremble beneath his feet. This train was going to take him far away from the city from which he wanted to escape.

'It will do me good', he thought, 'because I have only seen a small part of the country.' He had never been on holiday because his career had always had priority. He remembered only one occasion when he had visited relations in the south to attend their son's wedding.

Travelling, and especially first class, promised to be an exciting experience. Once on board, he examined his compartment, which would later become his bedroom. The decoration was simple, but pleasant. The colour made him think of the sea, of which he was dreaming.

He turned his back on the people waving on the platform and set off along the corridor of the carriage in search of something to eat. At last, he was starting to calm down and his heart was beating less quickly.

[Total: 40]

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