

BREVET DE TECHNICIEN SUPÉRIEUR

GROUPEMENT 1

- LANGUE VIVANTE ÉTRANGÈRE -

SESSION 2000

- ÉPREUVE D'ANGLAIS -

SUJET

Durée : 2 heures

Le sujet est composé de 3 pages numérotées de 1/3 à 3/3

L'usage du dictionnaire bilingue est autorisé

BTS du groupement 1	Coefficient
ACTION COMMERCIALE	1,5
ASSURANCE	1
PROFESSIONS IMMOBILIÈRES	1
COMMUNICATION DES ENTREPRISES	1

I. COMPRÉHENSION (10 points)

WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE : IS PARITY IN SIGHT?

When Carleton S. Fiorina was selected to head high-tech Hewlett-Packard Co., it was welcomed as a landmark for women. The ascent of women workers is inevitable as long as the New Economy¹'s job-creation machine keeps running. With an unemployment rate around 4.3% and economic growth well above 3%, it becomes impossible for even the most chauvinist of male bosses to exclude female employees from his calculations.

It's not just the law of supply and demand at work there. Some credit has to go to the women's movement and affirmative action². But the most important factors propelling women into positions of corporate power are the two giant forces that are shaping the economy itself — rapid technological change and globalization. The resulting New Economy favors workers who excel in manipulating information and solving problems. And it turns out, the biggest pool of workers with that skill set is women.

More important, in coming years, the supply of women with New Economy skill will swell. For the first time, the group of women between the age of 25 and 30 have more education than their male counterparts. These education advances are showing up at work. In 1998, women held 46% of executive, administrative and managerial positions, up from 34% in 1983.

And in an economy where entrepreneurship is exploding, women are starting businesses at twice the rate of men. Women are also joining the workforce in record numbers, and more could follow. The female labour-participation rate of those between the ages of 25 and 54 is just over 75%. But the male participation rate for this age group is a bit over 90%. So as more businesses adopt flexible work arrangements, offer more childcare options, and higher pay, that disparity is expected to shrink.

Obviously it's not all a woman's world. A disturbing gender gap persists. In 1998, women earned about 75% of men's median pay.

As the economy moves into the 21st century, women have reached a critical mass in education. And as long as the economy stays healthy, the position of women will continue to improve.

adapted from *Business Week*, August 9th, 1999

¹ *New Economy* : ensemble des activités économiques liées aux nouvelles technologies.

² *Affirmative action* : mesures prises par le gouvernement fédéral américain pour lutter contre toutes les formes de discrimination.

Consignes :

Après avoir lu attentivement le texte, rédigez en français une présentation dans laquelle :

- vous identifierez l'idée principale
- vous exposerez la situation présente, ses causes et les perspectives à venir.

160 mots (à + ou - 10%). Indiquez le nombre de mots utilisés.

Toute présentation sous forme de notes sera pénalisée.

II. EXPRESSION (10 points)

I'M GETTING WIRED FOR A LIFE IN THE COUNTRY

IT'S OFFICIAL: the end of city living is upon us. It seems the cool thing to do is to leave the city behind, get ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network)¹, and head for the country with your computer and printer.

It's a migration of young professionals who are finally able to free themselves from the constraints of the office and able to take the job with them to a cottage in the countryside. The key to modern living seems to be: to keep the city income but live close to nature.

With the high cost of office space hitting the pockets of large companies, a growing number of UK bosses are coming around to the notion of their key people working most of, or even the whole week, from home.

Studies of remote working indicate that teleworkers are more productive than their office-based counterparts. This is not surprising, considering how uncomfortable most offices are these days. What's more, at home you can "personalise" your workspace.

If the current trend continues, within the next few years London will be left to tourists, civil servants and politicians, while the rest of the working population are busy at home with their computers, breathing the fresh country air.

Eva Pascoe, 31 May 1999 (*Independent news on the Web*)

(213 mots)

¹ A system of international telephone lines to be used for all types of telecommunications including voice, data, fax and others.

Consignes :

1. Define teleworking in **YOUR OWN WORDS** (30 words at least).
2. To what extent is teleworking adapted to your future professional activity ? Consider the advantages and drawbacks for both the employer and the employee. (150 words).