

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2024

Épreuve EPC

**Exposé de la préparation
d'un cours**

**EPC
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Ce sujet comprend 3 documents :

- Document 1 : "Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on the NBA", ESPN, 18 January 2021.
- Document 2 : Dustin Jones, "As a racial justice activist, NBA great Bill Russell was a legend off the court", NPR, www.npr.org, 1 August 2022.
- Document 3A : Earl Lloyd and Sean Kirst, "The first African American to play in the NBA", *Moonfixer, The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd*, Syracuse University Press, August 2011.
- Document 3B : Earl Lloyd and Sean Kirst, "Prologue", *Moonfixer, The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd*, Syracuse University Press, August 2011.

Compte tenu des caractéristiques de ce dossier et des différentes possibilités d'exploitation qu'il offre, vous indiquerez à quel niveau d'apprentissage vous pourriez le destiner et quels objectifs vous vous fixeriez. Vous présenterez et justifierez votre démarche pour atteindre ces objectifs.

Document 1 : "Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s impact on the NBA", ESPN, 18 January 2021.

Document vidéo (3'00") à consulter sur la tablette multimédia fournie.

Document 2 : Dustin Jones, "As a racial justice activist, NBA great Bill Russell was a legend off the court", NPR, www.npr.org, 1 August 2022.

Bill Russell, who has died at the age of 88, was more than just a basketball superstar and world-class athlete. As a dedicated human rights activist, Russell fought against racial inequality both in and out of professional sports.

5 In February 2011, Barack Obama presented Russell with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the East Room of the White House. He told those in attendance about Russell's record 11 NBA titles, more than any player in history. All of the championships were playing for the Boston Celtics.

10 However, the president was more impressed by Russell's life outside of his athletic accomplishments: marching with Martin Luther King Jr.; standing up for Muhammad Ali; and boycotting a game in Kentucky after his Black teammates were refused service in a coffee shop.

15 "He endured insults and vandalism, but he kept on focusing on making the teammates who he loved better players, and made possible the success of so many who would follow," Obama said in 2011. "And I hope that one day, in the streets of Boston, children will look up at a statue built not only to Bill Russell the player, but Bill Russell the man."

The first game boycott over civil rights

20 In October 1961, the Boston Celtics were in Lexington, Ky., for a pre-season exhibition game. Before the game, Sam Jones and Tom Sanders, two Black members of the Boston team, were refused service when they tried to grab a bite to eat from the hotel's café.

25 According to Mark C. Bodanza's biography of Sam Jones, *Ten Times a Champion*, Jones and Sanders walked away humiliated and angry. The two bumped into Russell and K.C. Jones on the way back to their hotel rooms and explained what had happened in the café.

30 The four men brought the news to Celtics Coach Red Auerbach, who rang the hotel management about the incident. Though the players were eventually given permission to eat at the hotel, they wanted nothing to do with the establishment and chose to fly home.

35 It was the first boycotting of a game over a civil rights protest, according to the Basketball Network. When the players landed back in Boston, they were welcomed by a predominantly white crowd that supported their decision.

Russell told reporters the following day, per Bodanza: "We've got to show our disapproval of this kind of treatment or else the status quo will prevail. We have the same rights and privileges as anyone else and deserve to be treated accordingly. I hope we never have to go through this abuse again. But if it happens, we won't hesitate to take the same action again."

Almost 60 years later, Russell referenced the incident as he applauded another NBA team for speaking out. In August 2020, players on the Milwaukee Bucks chose not to take the court in a playoff game against Orlando after police shot a Black man in Wisconsin.

"In [1961] I walked out of an exhibition game much like the [NBA] players did yesterday," Russell wrote. "I am one of the few people that knows what it felt like to make such an important decision."

Many of Russell's most notable actions were during the 1960s

Russell was at the 1963 March on Washington, sitting nearby King as he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Another notable action came when Russell spoke to students in support of a one-day Black student boycott of Boston's public schools to protest segregation that same year. He was involved in local issues in Boston, including being involved in planning the graduation and speaking to graduates at a predominantly Black high school in 1966.

After Medgar Evers was murdered in 1963, Russell traveled to Mississippi to work with Evers' brother to open an integrated basketball camp.

In 1967, when boxing legend Muhammad Ali refused to fight in America's war in Vietnam, Russell joined other prominent Black figures gathering in Cleveland to meet with Ali. Russell supported Ali's decision to go to prison instead of denouncing his beliefs surrounding civil rights and religious freedom.

Later in life, he continued speaking out.

In 2017, he posted a photo of himself – wearing his Presidential Medal of Freedom – taking a knee in a sign of solidarity with protesters within the NFL.

"Proud to take a knee, and to stand tall against social injustice," Russell wrote.

Document 3A: Earl Lloyd and Sean Kirst, "The first African American to play in the NBA", *Moonfixer, The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd*, Syracuse University Press, August 2011.

The first African American to play in the NBA



Earl at the peak of his basketball career, with the Syracuse Nationals.
(Courtesy of NBA Photos/Getty Images)

Document iconographique également consultable sur la tablette multimédia fournie.

Document 3B: Earl Lloyd and Sean Kirst, "Prologue. Lloyd on Obama, Part One", *Moonfixer, The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd*, Syracuse University Press, August 2011, pp. 1–2.

These thoughts were offered by Earl, in the course of many conversations during the presidential campaign of 2008.

I've been watching Obama. I wasn't sure what to think at first. I had to know more. But for this man to survive what he's survived and still be standing tall, that tells me what I need to know. He's one tough guy. First there were the Clintons; she was the odds-on favorite to win the election. And then the folks who opposed Obama... they « Rev. Wright » him like crazy, and now he's getting more of the same before the general election. None of it gets under his skin. [...]

10 Yes, he reminds me a little of Jackie, the way they insult him and try to get him to take the bait. They want him to lose his temper so he seems unfit for the White House. It hasn't happened. That's the most amazing thing, and why so many of us love this man so much. We understand. In some way, at some point, we've been through the same thing.

15 No matter what happens in November, it's always going to be about race with a lot of people. If Obama wins, there's going to be a lot of the ruling gentry who feel very nervous. For some, it would be a dramatic change. But it seems to me you could dig up just about anybody and put them in the White House, and they'd be better than what we've had for the last eight years.

20 The kids today need to know their history, because once they do they'll understand how Obama epitomizes what it means to be a hero, just by the way he's staying in there, never losing his dignity. There are a lot of people who won't vote for him for scurrilous reasons, and there are too many scurrilous things being said. But I keep reminding myself that this man is one step away from the presidency. In our wildest imaginations, when we were young, we could not imagine a black man in the White House. I'd go to Washington, and I couldn't eat at the restaurants or get a good seat at a ball game! It's almost like this black man was heaven sent. Some people say he's half-black, but in this country there are no half-black people. That's the gospel. If you are a half-black man, you're a black man. It's his message that allows him to go into Iowa and Missouri and Colorado and Kentucky and get people to listen in a way they never listen before.

30 It's been a long road, and I walked that road along with many, many others, and I can truly appreciate what Barack Obama is going through in this election. [...]

We've walked the road for a long time, and the last house on the road is the White House. It is joyful to think about, but a little frightening.