

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2022

Épreuve EPC

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

EPC

340

Ce sujet comprend 3 documents :

- Document 1 : Riz Ahmed (Riz MC), "Englistan", Official Music Video, 2016.
- Document 2 : Peter Ackroyd, *Albion - The Origins of the English Imagination* (2002), London: Vintage, 2003 pp. 448-449.
- Document 3 : Yasmeen Serhan, "What Euro 2020 Has Revealed About Englishness", *theatlantic.com*, July 8, 2021.

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 : Riz Ahmed (Riz MC), "Englistan", official music video, 2016.

Document vidéo (3'45") à consulter sur la tablette multimédia fournie.

Document 2 : Peter Ackroyd, *Albion – The Origins of the English Imagination* (2002), London: Vintage, 2003 pp. 448-449.

Englishness is the principle of diversity itself. In English literature, music and painting, heterogeneity becomes the form and type of art. This condition reflects both a mixed language comprised of many different elements and a mixed culture of many different races. That is why there is
5 also, in the products of the English imagination, a characteristic mixing or blurring of forms; in these pages, I have traced the conflation of biography, or history, and the novel.

[...] So there are many striking continuities in English culture, ranging from the presence of alliteration in English native poetry for the last two
10 thousand years to shape and size the ordinary English house. But the most powerful impulse can be found in what I have called the territorial imperative, by means of which a local area can influence or guide all those who inhabit it. The example of London has often been adduced. But the territorial imperative can also be transposed to include the national itself.
15 English writers and artists, English composers and folk-singers, have been haunted by this sense of place, in which the echoic simplicities of past use and past tradition sanctify a certain spot of ground. These forces are no doubt to be found in other regions and countries of the earth; but in England the reverence for the past and the affinity with the natural landscape join
20 together in a mutual embrace. So we owe much to the ground on which we dwell. It is the landscape and the dreamscape. It encourages a sense of longing and belonging.

Document 3 : Yasmeeen Serhan, "What Euro 2020 Has Revealed About Englishness", *theatlantic.com*, July 8, 2021.

What Euro 2020 Has Revealed About Englishness

After beating Denmark 2–1 last night, the English men’s national soccer team is set to return to London’s Wembley Stadium for the final of the European Championship against Italy on Sunday. The last time English fans felt this kind of optimism was during the 2018 World Cup, when the team
5 advanced to the semifinal before being knocked out of the competition by Croatia. What’s at stake for England isn’t just its first-ever European Championship title, but its first major soccer tournament victory in 55 years.

But assessing the England team simply in terms of games won and goals
10 scored would be to ignore its other, arguably more powerful, success from this tournament: At a time when England continues to grapple with its national identity and what it represents, the England team has laid out its own vision of Englishness—one that is compassionate, inclusive, and unapologetically progressive.

Throughout the tournament, the English team has put its values quite
15 literally at the center of the stadium. Before every kickoff, England’s players have taken a knee in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, replicating the gesture made popular by the American football player Colin Kaepernick. The team’s captain, Harry Kane, wore a rainbow armband to
20 mark Pride month—a gesture that took on even greater significance after European soccer’s governing body blocked the city of Munich from illuminating its stadium in the rainbow colors of the Pride flag. Other members of the squad also expressed their support. Off the field, England’s players have advocated on issues ranging from racial equality in sports to
25 the government supplying free school meals for underprivileged children during the pandemic.

They clearly haven’t stuck to sports, and that’s by design. “It’s their duty
30 to continue to interact with the public on matters such as equality, inclusivity, and racial injustice, while using the power of their voices to help put debates on the table, raise awareness, and educate,” Gareth Southgate, the England manager, wrote last month in a letter to English fans, noting that although England’s desire to protect its values and traditions as a nation is understandable, “that shouldn’t come at the expense of introspection and progress.”

35 Were this any other country, perhaps such statements wouldn’t be so seismic. But for England, soccer represents one of the few outlets to express

its nationalism—so much so that a recent survey found that England’s national team is the most unifying symbol it has. Unlike British identity, which is rooted in the state (and which encompasses the other constituent nations of the United Kingdom—Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland), Englishness doesn’t have any political institutions. It has no distinct national anthem. Even when competing against Scotland and Wales, England’s teams sing the British national anthem, “God Save the Queen.” Although England does have its own flag, it has been historically difficult to embrace. Since the 1970s, the Saint George’s Cross has been associated with far-right groups such as the British National Party and the English Defence League. To this day, it rarely features outside sporting contexts.

Part of the challenge facing Englishness is that, for centuries, it has been conflated with entities much larger than itself: the Royal Family, the British empire, the Commonwealth, and the United Kingdom as a whole. The English novelist George Orwell observed the interchangeable use of Britain and England in his own writing, a habit that he said was indicative of how the world sees England too. “It is very rare to meet a foreigner, other than an American, who can distinguish between English and Scots or even English and Irish,” Orwell wrote in his seminal 1941 essay “The Lion and the Unicorn.”

In recent years, however, Englishness has started to reassert itself, and the process has coincided with rising nationalist sentiment in Scotland and Wales. But Englishness hasn’t always had the best representation: As with most forms of nationalism, it is often regarded as something exclusive, insular, and, in its worst manifestations, even racist. That the phenomenon has been inextricably linked with Brexit—a project that was opposed by the majority of people in Scotland and Northern Ireland and one that has been defined in part by the populist and anti-immigrant rhetoric that surrounded it—hasn’t helped its mass appeal. Indeed, studies have shown that younger people are less likely to identify as English relative to their elders, preferring instead to identify with their Britishness, which is widely seen as more multicultural and inclusive.