

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2023

Épreuve EPC

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

**EPC
550**

Ce sujet comprend 3 documents :

- Document 1:

Document 1A: J. M. Barrie, "ACT I. AT LOAM HOUSE, MAYFAIR", *The Admirable Crichton*, Long Road Classics Collection, 2022, first published in 1902, pp. 5 – 7.

Document 1B: J. M. Barrie, "ACT I. AT LOAM HOUSE, MAYFAIR", *The Admirable Crichton*, Long Road Classics Collection, 2022, first published in 1902, pp. 16 – 17.

- Document 2: Julian Fellowes, *Downton Abbey*, Season 6 poster, London: ITV, 2015.

- Document 3: "Presidents' Butler Mingled with Powerful", *cnn.com*, August 15, 2013.

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 1A: J. M. Barrie, "ACT I. AT LOAM HOUSE, MAYFAIR", *The Admirable Crichton*, Long Road Classics Collection, 2022, first published in 1902, pp. 5 – 7.

ACT I. AT LOAM HOUSE, MAYFAIR

A moment before the curtain rises, the Hon. Ernest Woolley drives up to the door of Loam House in Mayfair. There is a happy smile on his pleasant, insignificant face, and this presumably means that he is thinking of himself. He is too busy over nothing, this man about town, to be always
5 thinking of himself, but, on the other hand, he almost never thinks of any other person. Probably Ernest's great moment is when he wakes of a morning and realises that he really is Ernest, for we must all wish to be that which is our ideal. We can conceive him springing out of bed light-heartedly and waiting for his man to do the rest. He is dressed in excellent taste, with
10 just the little bit more which shows that he is not without a sense of humour: the dandiacal are often saved by carrying a smile at the whole thing in their spats, let us say. [...]

He gives his hat to one footman and his cane to another, and mounts the great staircase unassisted and undirected. As a nephew of the house he
15 need show no credentials even to Crichton, who is guarding a door above.

It would not be good taste to describe Crichton, who is only a servant; if to the scandal of all good houses he is to stand out as a figure in the play, he must do it on his own, as they say in the pantry and the boudoir.

We are not going to help him. We have had misgivings ever since we
20 found his name in the title, and we shall keep him out of his rights as long as we can. Even though we softened to him he would not be a hero in these clothes of servitude; and he loves his clothes. How to get him out of them? It would require a cataclysm. To be an indoor servant at all is to Crichton a badge of honour; to be a butler at thirty is the realisation of his proudest
25 ambitions. He is devotedly attached to his master, who, in his opinion, has but on fault, he is not sufficiently contemptuous of his inferiors. We are immediately to be introduced to this solitary failing of a great English peer.

This perfect butler, then, opens a door, and ushers Ernest into a certain room. At the same moment the curtain rises on this room, and the
30 play begins. [...]

ERNEST. I perceive, from the tea cups, Crichton, that the great function is to take place here.

CRICHTON (with a respectful sigh). Yes, sir.

ERNEST (chuckling heartlessly). The servants' hall coming up to have
35 tea in the drawing room! (With terrible sarcasm). No wonder you look happy, Crichton.

CRICHTON (under the knife). No, sir.

ERNEST. Do you know, Crichton, I think that with an effort you might look even happier. (CRICHTON smiles wanly.) You don't approve of his lordship's compelling his servants to be his equals – once a month?

CRICHTON. It is not for me, sir, to disapprove of his lordship's radical views.

ERNEST. Certainly not. And, after all, it is only once a month that he is affable to you.

CRICHTON. On all other days of the month, sir, his lordship's treatment of us is everything that could be desired.

Document 1B: J. M. Barrie, "ACT I. AT LOAM HOUSE, MAYFAIR", *The Admirable Crichton*, Long Road Classics Collection, 2022, first published in 1902, pp. 16 – 17.

[The house servants have all come to the drawing room to have tea with Lord Loam's family. Lady Mary, one of the three daughters of the house, is present]

LADY MARY. Milk and sugar, Crichton?

CRICHTON. I'm ashamed to be seen talking to you, my lady.

LADY MARY. To such a perfect servant as you all this must be most distasteful. (CRICHTON is too respectful to answer.) Oh, please do speak,
5 or I shall have to recite. You do hate it, don't you?

CRICHTON. It pains me, your ladyship. It disturbs the etiquette of the servants' hall. After last month's meeting the pageboy, in a burst of equality, called me Crichton. He was dismissed.

LADY MARY. I wonder – I really do – how you can remain with us.

10 CRICHTON. I should have felt compelled to give notice, my lady, if the master had not had a seat in the Upper House. I cling to that. [...]

LADY MARY. Very proper sentiments. You are a good soul, Crichton.
[...]

15 CRICHTON (still talking to LADY MARY). No, my lady; his lordship may compel us to be equal upstairs, but there will never be equality in the servants' hall.

LORD LOAM (overhearing this). What's that? No equality? Can't you see, Crichton, that our divisions into classes are artificial, that if we were to return to nature, which is the aspiration of my life, all would be equal?

20 CRICHTON. If I may make so bold as to contradict your lordship –

LORD LOAM (With an effort). Go on.

CRICHTON. The divisions into classes, my lord, are not artificial. They are the natural outcome of a civilised society. (To LADY MARY). There must always be a master and servants in all civilised communities, my lady, for
25 it is natural, and whatever is natural is right.

LORD LOAM (wincing). It is very unnatural for me to stand here and allow you to talk such nonsense.

CRICHTON (eagerly). Yes, my lord, it is. That is what I have been striving to point out to your lordship.

Document 2 : Julian Fellowes, *Downton Abbey*, Season 6 poster, London: ITV, 2015.



Document iconographique également consultable sur la tablette multimédia fournie.

Document 3 : "Presidents' Butler Mingled with Powerful", *cnn.com*, August 15, 2013.

Document audio/vidéo (3'26") à consulter sur la tablette multimédia fournie.