

# Copie anonyme - n°anonymat :

Code épreuve :

Nombre de pages : 5

Session : 2024

Épreuve de : Langue vivante A (Anglais)

## Consignes

- Remplir soigneusement l'en-tête de chaque feuille avant de commencer à composer
- Rédiger avec un stylo non effaçable bleu ou noir
- Ne rien écrire dans les marges (gauche et droite)
- Numéroté chaque page (cadre en bas à droite)
- Placer les feuilles A3 ouvertes, dans le même sens et dans l'ordre

Thème :

It is a family of migrants like thousands of others. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sophie Greenberg came all the way from Poland to seek the American Dream in New York City. There she found Isaac Sackler, who was from Galicia. They will have three children: Arthur, Mortimer and Raymond. And despite some financial burdens, the lovers will have a pride: to give their sons a good name. A little less than a century and three generations later, this name is hated across the country and a member of the Congress said that he was "not sure there was a more terrible family in America..."

Between the two stories, the rise of a pharmaceutical empire and billions made with Oxycotin, one of the opioids that killed nearly 500 000 Americans in a span of 20 years, according to health authorities.

This is the story that the American reporter Patrick Radden Keefe<sup>tells us</sup> in a masterpiece extremely well documented. There are a lot of excellent works on the opioid crisis, confesses the author. Nevertheless, I wanted to write a different type of story, a saga that could paint three generations of a family dynasty, and the way this dynasty changed the world, a story that would deal with ambition, philanthropy, crime and impunity, institutional bribes, power and greed.

## Résumé analytique Comparatif

Both documents address the issue of the impact the opioid crisis had on public opinion about the pharmaceutical industry. President Biden finally gave power to his government to negotiate the price of the most important generic medication in the US, such as diabetes or kidney disease. This is a great symbol for the US population, because "Big Pharma" (the dub of pharmaceutical companies in the US) had always been known for being the strongest contestant in the discussions between the pharmaceutical industry and the US government, according to doc 1.

Moreover, the first document also reveals that the Covid-19 vaccine research has also shown the greed of pharmaceutical corporations: whereas they are being granted the role of coining future efficient medicines, they have used public money to maximize their profits by preventing the government from producing and selling the vaccine on a larger scale.

And this has a huge effect on public opinion and on prestigious institutions: because Covid-19 revealed that pharmaceutical corporations are not doing their duty and, before, that their medications claimed lives (doc 1), "Big Pharma" is being criticized and its relations suffer: Oxford University has recently removed the name of the Sackler family from some of the buildings on the campus, following actions made by the Louvre Museum or the British Museum previously (doc 2).

But this is not much progress: indeed, even if Biden tried to implement a new policy to fight the monopoly power of pharmaceutical corporations, it will certainly fall short of expectations. Doc 1 explains that Biden's actions are limited compared to what is being done in Europe about health system, and that the bigger problem is that "Big Pharma" act as financial corporations,

Trying to pay their shareholders the highest while keeping the patents of the medicines they produce for themselves.

And this amount of money at stake also explains that even if the public outcry is massive, institutions continue to support them. Doc 2 reveals through an investigation of the Financial Times that even after the scandal of OxyContin, Oxford University continued welcoming donations from the Sackler family and inviting former members of the Purdue's board, the company responsible for lobbying OxyContin, to official and high honor events, showing that recent drug related scandals have not decreased the influence of "Big Pharma".

381 words

### Essay argument

Through the surge of a new synthetic hard drug in the US, the fentanyl, that destroys lives and bodies, causing a real health problem in some cities such as Los Angeles, people can see the shadow of the health crisis brought about in the nineties and in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by the opioids crisis, that claimed the lives of more than half a million lives due to multiple overdoses, also revealing the rotting roots of the American Dream. I think that even if the opioid crisis and the power of pharmaceutical companies have played a role in breaking down the myth of the American Dream, it is also a consequence of a lack of regulation backed up by a new logic of production within pharmaceutical companies.

Granted, the opioid crisis seems to have shattered the American dream, by showing us the lack of efficiency of the different health programs implemented by the US government. The failure of Medicare and Medicaid implemented by B. OBAMA, as well as the growing influence of pharmaceutical companies thanks to the pandemic crisis seems to present the impossibility of creating a working

health system, preventing people from facing social risks and thus perpetuating the American Dream as the possibility for everybody to be successful, healthy and genuinely happy.

~~However~~ Moreover, the American Dream also evokes an equal opportunity for everybody to do what they want, to use their freedom, but the opioid crisis seems to show us that the game is rigged, because of the lobbying of pharmaceutical companies that make them richer and richer and also because they bribe the Congress into hiding the truth about drugs from citizens: Joe Heller, in doc 5, had drawn this situation, to warn the population about lobbying. For doc 3, the opioids crisis is actually what made the old American Dream a nightmare, because of these extremely powerful families such as the Sackler that hold <sup>public</sup> health in their hands.

Nevertheless, the American Dream has been challenged by the power of pharmaceutical companies because of a lack of regulation among corporations. Indeed, it is because these companies are in a situation of a monopoly on their market that they can put the price as high as they want, because who is not going to pay for a medicine they need? But the US were originally known as a "trust-busting" country, illustrated by being the first country to pass a law in 1890 to prevent trustification. But now, these companies are so powerful they can keep the production for them even when it has been paid with public money, such as during the Covid crisis (doc 1). And this regulation problem also comes from the availability of synthetic drugs, not prescribed, on the American market and black market. Indeed, it is because pharmaceutical companies have now a financial logic, aiming to pay the ~~shareholders~~ shareholders the highest that prescribed drugs, that are used to make synthetic drug such as when it is mixed with other components (for example fentanyl), are so expensive people seek into the black market to find them cheaper. And because of that, people pain the power of pharmaceutical companies with overdoses, or even with the failure of a public health system in the US that lead to the city of Los Angeles, crowded with crackheads and addicts.

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<p>To conclude , I want to say that if the opioids crisis and the power of pharmaceutical companies is indeed part of the collapsing of the American Dream , it is because this is part and parcel of what America has become over the years : a country where freedom shifted into unequal capitalism that uses every inches, <del>over</del> ounces and pounds of its products to make profit again and again , even when it involves the health of its citizens.</p> <p><u>521 words</u></p>			
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