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Épreuve de : Langue vivante A ELVi : 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

I. How do the legal and political debates about immigration reflect the tensions between national security and human rights in the US and UK today?

In 2025, Trump's administration has sent more than a thousand alleged-illegal immigrants to El Salvador's mega-prisons, in the name of national security, highlighting the core issue of the balance between human rights and national security. The first document depicts the debate about ICE arrests based on race and appearances as the second one pertains of Starmer's attempt to curb the ECHR and to dilute asylum seekers's rights.

Sure, the questions of national security and of the immigration enforcement are intertwined. According to the first document, it is in the sake of national security that Trump has implemented his mass deportation campaign that allows ICE to arrest people based on their appearance. This policy goes against a 1975 Supreme Court ruling that forbids any authority to target somebody solely relying on race. Moreover, according to the second document, there is also a major political stake, which is to contain the far-right at a national and european level. Indeed, Starmer has called EU-members to curb the ECHR in order to guarantee not only national security but also political

stability. He contends that this crackdown on immigration will weaken far right parties by making them lose the reason why people vote for them.

Yet, such policies do go against human rights principles. Trump's immigration policy strikes a blow at the right not to be seized without any legitimate reasons. Such policy is denounced and heavily criticised by civil rights groups and political figures such as Justice Sonia Sotomayer, as governments lawyers defend the right of ICE to not be hobbled when acting for national security. In the UK, Starmer's call for the curbing of the ECHR is a direct threat to human rights, because it mainly pertains of the articles about torture and family life. According to the columnist, Starmer will put forth the need to balance human rights and national security for the very purpose of human rights principles. Yet, such crackdown and curbing of a human rights declaration could set a precedent that would lead to global consequences on human rights.

In the end, it seems that debates about immigration tend to foster the need to make a choice between national security and human rights, rather than the need to conciliate both.

II. In your opinion, to what extent do the current policies and rhetoric about immigration reflect political and economic challenges faced by the US and the UK?

In 2020, the Brexit was official, happening mostly because UK citizens claimed they could not shoulder the burden of Eastern-Europe immigration anymore. Yet, more than five years later, only 32% of Britons believe it was a good idea (document 8), showing how the crackdown on immigration did not solve any of the UK's economic and political issues. I believe that immigration is often used as a scapegoat for higher-concern issues that politics do not seem to address successfully. These immigration policies either hide or unveil the other problems that threaten our democracies.

First, the current policies and rhetoric about immigration reflect the US' and the UK's economic challenges. The rampant rhetoric contends that immigrants steal the non-immigrants' jobs and that, because of that, they are a threat to citizens' economic prosperity. For example, the "Polish plumber" case was denounced by anti-immigration protesters for this very reason. Yet, I believe that laying the blame on immigrants is only a distraction from the fact that those economic struggles are not being well grappled with. The fact that Donald Trump uses this rhetoric while implementing his One Big Beautiful Bill that cuts Medicare funding for thousands of citizens provides further evidence to that point. It is also Trump who caused the high inflation rates in the US, but he still blames it on his favourite scapegoat: immigration.

Moreover, such policies and rhetoric also reflect the political stakes that the US and the UK both face. The national security issue is rampant in such rhetoric. But, according to document 5, the very same people that claim they want to protect themselves and others from the dangers of immigration end up being

another threat for the citizens' security. It was perfectly shown by the arrest of the 5-year-old boy Liam by ICE, who did not embody any threat yet was not protected either. In the UK, the main political challenge is the far right surge. As shown by the protests on September 2025, Nigel Farage's party has attracted support, becoming the leading party in the polls (document 3). This is what led Starmer to yield in to far rights demands about immigration policy (document 2), this being presented as the only way to deter people from voting for far right parties. The question of "britishness" has also been brought on the table, pertaining of the national identity crisis. Yet, the US also face an issue with national identity. Since Donald Trump came back into office, the despise of everything that was non-American has become prevalent. "America first" or "MAGA" sounded pro-American but, in my opinion, those slogans are mostly anti-non-American, which explains the "driving while black" syndrome observed during ICE arrests, during which people who don't look American (meaning not white people) are approached. Such rhetoric is depicted by the fourth document in which even the Statue of Liberty is being aggressively taken down by ICE officers. How ironic is it, knowing that it is branded as it "Give me your tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free", a literal call for immigration! Immigration policies have also highlighted other weaknesses of the US democracy. For example, the assassination of Alex Prelli and Renée Good by ICE have shown the limits of freedom of speech and the exacerbation of violence in the US.

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III. Thème

The excited nationalists who have battled the police by screaming "send them back" are now joining the growing army of Reform UK voters.

The party of Nigel Farage, who inspired Brexit, is currently leading the vote polls with 31%, far in front of the in power Labour (20%) and the Tories (16%). That has not happened for a century, which has been rythmied by continued switches between those two main parties.

In 2014, xenophobia has already been one of the most significant motives for the divorce with the European Union (EU), accused of facilitating the uncontrolled entrances, of Eastern-Europe workers. Since the UK's withdrawal from the EU, Polish people can not freely move in to the UK anymore. Yet, they were replaced by a record number - way higher - of inhabitants from the former british empire.

Not only the Brexit, whose decision was a great one according to only 32% of Britons, did not held its promise to "take back control" of the borders, but it has also exacerbated the controversy about immigration, even more stirred by Donald Trump's policy. It goes so far that Vernon Bogdanor, major british figure of constitutional right, warns in the Guardian against the "moral panic" that a "destroying rhetoric" about immigration could arise.

FIN

NE RIEN ÉCRIRE DANS CE CADRE

