

**EXAMEN COMMUN D'ENTREE
EN PREMIERE ANNEE**

EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS

Samedi 25 mai 2013

13h30 à 18h00

(durée conseillée : 1h30)

Coeff.2

Ce sujet est composé de 3 pages

Il est demandé aux candidats de répondre directement sur leur copie en indiquant clairement les numéros des exercices.

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“An independent Scotland could look like a wee Canada”

By [Harry McGrath](#), *NEW STATESMAN*, Published December 5, 2012

The closest parallel between Scotland and anywhere else is not Quebec, Ireland, Iceland, or Norway, but Canada.

5 Comparing a future independent Scotland to other places is all the rage. Visions of Scotland as a new Ireland or new Iceland have come and gone, their reputations as thriving small countries shredded by banking meltdowns and financial collapses. Comparisons with Nordic states are ongoing but sometimes require a shoehorn to make them fit.

10 The recent ‘Edinburgh Agreement’ which laid the groundwork for a referendum on Scottish independence in 2014, has unleashed a fresh set of comparisons - this time between Scotland and other places with independence movements.

15 Foremost amongst these is Quebec which is deemed to be similar to Scotland because it has already experienced independence referenda. However, the independence movement in Quebec differs from that in Scotland in at least two fundamental ways: creating a new country is not the same as restoring the independence of an old one and Scotland has no equivalent of the language issue that was so definitive in Quebec.

From a Scots-Canadian perspective the closest parallel between Scotland and anywhere else is not Quebec, Ireland, Iceland, or Norway, but Canada. Indeed, it is Groundhog Day for people like me who lived in Canada for many years and live in Scotland now.

20 Scottish government rhetoric in favour of multiculturalism and immigration distinguishes it from other parts of the British body politic, but is very familiar to Canadian ears. Ditto a recent consultation on gay marriage which unleashed exactly the same apocalyptic arguments against it that were heard in Canada before it was legalised there in 1995. Ditto the headline debate at the last Scottish National Party conference which confirmed party policy on withdrawing nuclear weapons from Scotland but voted in favour of membership of NATO. That debate raged in Canada from the 1960s until the squadron at Comox on Vancouver Island flew the last nuclear weapons back to the United States in 1984, leaving Canada a non-nuclear member of NATO.

30 This paralleling of the Canadian experience in Scotland has gone largely unnoticed on both sides of the Atlantic. Here comparisons between Scotland and Canada tend to be seen as historical rather than contemporary; in Canada anything with the words ‘independence’ or ‘referendum’ attached to it is viewed through the prism of Quebec. [...]

35 So rather than see the independence issue in Scotland as just another version of Quebec, it looks to me a lot more like the ‘small ‘n’ Canadian nationalism of the 1970s onward: welcoming, inclusive, peaceful. Ironically, Scotland’s pursuit of this vision could see it pass Canada going in the other direction. Unusually, perhaps uniquely, certain sections of the liberal British press which once held Canada in the highest esteem are now openly accusing its right-wing government of deserting the principles that made it great.

40 For now though, it is all about precedents. From smoking bans to gay marriage to national literature in school curricula to minimum alcohol pricing, where Canada goes Scotland eventually follows where it can. The big vision stuff is another matter. It’s tough to build Canadian style multiculturalism without the ability to adapt your own immigration policy to that end as Trudeau did; tougher still to rid your territory of nuclear weapons without any power over foreign affairs. [...]

I. Comprehension (8 points)

Answer the following questions using your own words (40-50 words per question).

1. Explain the following sentence from the article :

“Comparisons with Nordic states are ongoing but sometimes require a shoehorn to make them fit.” (lines 5-6) (/ 2)

2. Why is the comparison between Scotland and Canada more relevant than the one between Scotland and Quebec? (/3)

3. According to H. McGrath, why has the liberal British press changed its attitude towards Canada? (/3)

II. Synonyms (4 points)

For each of the following, find an equivalent word or expression in the article. The words you are looking for appear in the same order as in the list below.

- a. very fashionable
- b. flourishing
- c. foundation
- d. let loose
- e. the most important
- f. considered
- g. removing
- h. programmes

III. Written expression (8 points)

Write an essay of 300 words (+/- 10%) on the following subject:

To what extent do you think that nationalist/independence movements in Europe can be considered as a threat to European integration?