

**Examen écrit- Session 1 - Semestre 2 2020-2021**

Langue : <b>Anglais</b>	Niveau : 3	Date : 15 mai 2021	Durée : 1h30
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### **Comedians with Tourette’s help to show it’s no laughing matter**

Jamie Doward, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020, *The Guardian*

5 “I really find it quite uncomfortable being around people with Tourette’s,” confessed comedian Gerard Harris. “I don’t like them, they annoy me.” This is not the preamble to some bad taste joke: it is Harris’s genuine view and one that he is well qualified to explain. Like an estimated 1% of the population, Harris, 47, who has been doing standup since his early 30s, has Tourette’s syndrome.

10 “My shows are hour-long therapy sessions, but I am over the vast majority of my issues,” Harris said. “I’m doing it because I’ve got to work and I like making other people laugh.” Harris describes Tourette’s as “by far the most shameful affliction that I have”. “It impacts on your life physically and psychologically in every way,” he explained. Making the decision to be a comedian took a leap of courage. “It’s bloody hard to do comedy, but even harder when you are used to hiding your own self in public. The last thing you want to do is draw attention to yourself more.”

15 Now, along with other comedians around the world who have Tourette’s, Harris is taking part in a groundbreaking project to destigmatise a syndrome that remains the butt of jokes even today. And comedy is starting to draw criticism from many within the Tourette’s community for the stereotypes it helped to perpetuate about a hereditary, neurological condition characterised by “tics” – sudden, uncontrollable movements or sounds that can be painful and  
20 very debilitating. Contrary to popular belief, very few people who have Tourette’s swear involuntarily, but comedy has helped perpetuate this view.

The collaboration between Harris and his fellow comedians with researchers from the universities of Bath and Oxford will help inform a forthcoming book, *Tourette Syndrome, Stigma and Society*, which will include chapters examining the relationship between the  
25 syndrome and humour. [...]

30 Professor Rachel Forrester-Jones, director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy at the University of Bath, explained: “Over the years jokes about Tourette’s have resonated and have shaped what people think about the condition, yet in a very narrow and specific way. This matters and has tangible impact on people’s lives because, partly as a consequence, we’ve too often downplayed the severity of Tourette’s and the support people need.”

35 Forrester-Jones has herself done standup, performing at venues in Margate and Canterbury. She said: “This new work is a recognition that comedy is a powerful tool. But by turning this issue on its head and by interviewing comedians who themselves have Tourette’s, we want to give them ownership of the issue, empowering them to shape the debates and discourse which influence attitudes towards Tourette’s.”

40 The researchers are keen to interview as many comedians with the syndrome as they can find. “Studies suggest that people with Tourette’s are generally very creative and engage in different artforms, for example, comedy, music and theatre,” one of them said. “It is though interesting to understand why so many have focused on standup comedy. Some of the comedians I talked to said they liked the fact they could use comedy to make people laugh *with them*, rather than *at them*.”

**WRITE ALL YOU'RE ANSWERS ON THE EXAM PAPER SHEET. THANK YOU!**

I. **Reading (/6)**

- 1) Global comprehension: so far, has stand-up comedy helped people better understand what Tourette’s syndrome is? (*Give two reasons why/why not.*)
- 2) Detailed comprehension: true or false? Justify each answer with a quote from the text (*Write all the important words, not just the lines!*)
  - a. Gerard Harris has always liked being the centre of attention.
  - b. Most people with Tourette’s cannot control what they say.
  - c. Researchers think their work can change the way Tourette’s syndrome is discussed and perceived.

## I. Grammar (/4)

Conjugate the verbs in brackets in the **present simple** or **present continuous**.

- 1) My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Paris where she \_\_\_\_\_ (work) as an artistic director.
- 2) Leave him alone, he \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to practice his new routine and you \_\_\_\_\_ (just – make) him feel embarrassed.
- 3) Why don't you come over? We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) BBC's new sitcom and we \_\_\_\_\_ (really – enjoy) it.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ (you – think) I should go to this comedy club? // I \_\_\_\_\_ (not – know), I have never been there.

## II. Writing (/10)

Choose **ONE** of the following topics (200-250 words).

- 1) *Essay*: Can comedy help destigmatise people from marginalised groups?

*Give your opinion in a well-structured essay and illustrate your ideas with precise examples. Include three comparative forms (underline them).*

**OR**

- 2) *Creative writing*: Imagine you are preparing for a comedy night and write a bit about one of your problems/weaknesses (or what society considers a problem/weakness).

*Tell a short story about yourself and finish with a punchline. Use two question tags and two imperative forms (underline them).*