

## **GETTING READY**

**Propositions de corrigés**

## Document 0: London Mayor Sadiq Khan Talks to David Gura about COP 30 and Zorhan Mamdani

*Bloomberg Talks*, November 3, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDZI23fFnF4> - Listen to 03:22 - the end

### A. COMPREHENSION

1. Present the document briefly (nature, source, date/context, topic and guesses about why Khan mentions them)

This is an extract from an interview of Sadiq Khan, the current mayor of London, for the American podcast Bloomberg, which took place during the 2025 New York City mayoral campaign and during the COP 30. It is about what Khan had to say about Mamdani.

#### Part 1 : 03:22-04:40

1. London in the context of the NYC mayoral race at the time of recording

Portrayal of London	“A place that’s out of control and full of crime”
By whom	D.J. Trump
Why	Islamophobia

2. Sadiq Khan’s response to the weaponisation of his city

- a. Why the same kind of people hate both London and New York

1. Both are liberal cities
2. Both are progressive cities
3. Both are multicultural cities
4. Both are incredibly successful

- b. Why Mamdani’s religion is actually irrelevant - fill in the blanks

And I think listen, the fact that in New York you may (1) **elect** somebody who is a (2) **Muslim** is neither here nor there (= is irrelevant, doesn’t matter at all). It’s what are his (3) **policies** ? What is his vision? What does he want to do for the people of New York? And I think listen, it says more about the people criticizing you know, Zohran Mandani’s (4) **ethnicity** and (5) **faith**. It says more about them and you know what they’re all about than it is about him.

#### Part 2 : 04:41-07:35

3. True or false ?

- a. Sadiq Khan and Zohran Mamdani have never spoken to each other **F**

- b. Gura agrees with Khan that New York and London are the two greatest cities in the world, and that parallels can be drawn between the two **T**
- c. Sadiq Khan thinks being the first Muslim mayor of a great city is the greatest honor and the greatest privilege there is. **F**

**4. Sadiq Khan's thoughts on Mamdani's mayoral campaign**

How Mamdani's been handling it	<b>He appears to be having fun, to be connecting.</b>
The people Mamdani's been reaching out to	<b>Parts of NYC that are underserved.</b>
What Khan thinks is important	<b>To be authentic.</b>

**5. Sadiq Khan's thoughts on what it means to be the mayor of a global city**

- a. The most important audience remains the constituents **T**
- b. It is a huge privilege, but it comes with a huge responsibility **T**

**6. Sadiq Khan on being the Muslim mayor of a great city - fill in the blanks**

I'd never (1) **campaigned** to be a Muslim mayor. I don't use those sorts of words. I'm a mayor who (2) **happens** to be Muslim, but I recognize, and this is just a fact of life, there are some people who may not be a Muslim. There are some people who only, you know, see things in movies or when they hear from (3) **presidents**. And I want to address some of the (4) **fears** people have sometimes because I am a Muslim. I recognize sometimes people (5) **prejudge** what it means to be a Muslim. So, not by choice, but almost by (6) **duty**. I have to sometimes use my role to explain we aren't the (7) **boogeyman**. Uh we are just like you. Uh we've got the same ambitions and aspirations as uh you. I (8) **never** asked for that responsibility, but I recognize as the leader of a great city, as a proud (9) **Brit**, a proud (10) **Englishman**, a proud (11) **Londoner**, but also a proud (12) **Muslim**, I'm more than happy to talk about my (13) **faith** and what it (14) **means**.

**7. What does Sadiq Khan think Zohran Mamdani will do as the mayor of New York ? Why ?**

If Mamdani wins, he will do the same. No because he wants to, but because he has to because their religion has been demonized.

**Part 3 : 07:35-the end**

**8. True or False ?**

- a. Some people have been saying that progressive politics will cause rich people to leave London and New York. **T**
- b. Sadiq Khan takes that kind of threat very seriously. **F**

**9. Sadiq Khan concludes**

The joy of being the mayor	<b>is that one works with everyone across the city.</b>
For whom he campaigned	<b>for all Londoners, for those who live in deprived communities, those who desperately need social housing, those facing the cost-of-living crisis.</b>
The key to doing a great job as a mayor	<b>working with everyone (including the private sector).</b>

**PART 1.a. - FOOD**

## Document 1: There's one photograph all politicians fear: the one of them eating

Jay Rayner, *The Observer*, 19 April 2015



**Short of** being photographed as one of those curving toilet doors on a Virgin Train slides gently open, revealing a mess of **bare** knees and shirt tails, there is one photograph that the modern politician fears more than any other: the eating shot. Look at what that image of Ed Miliband<sup>1</sup> eating a bacon sandwich did to him: the way the lips folded back and curled, how the eyes began to roll back in his head like he had reached some private moment of truth. That one image raised a brutal question: could you imagine this man, the one with the expression like the ketamine has just **kicked in**, running the country?



Now consider all the politicians **run ragged** by the election campaign so far, and have pity on their souls. For all day every day what they are thinking is this: please God, let nobody take a picture of me eating. It so terrified David Cameron that, apparently haunted by the Miliband bacon sandwich gate,<sup>2</sup> he responded to a hot dog encountered on the campaign trail by eating it with a knife and fork. And he still managed to look a bit of a **knob**.

It's terribly unfair. In the old days politicians were allowed to be **dignified** and remote figures, **other-worldly** emissaries from Planet Leadership. Now, in the age of the selfie and the close-up, we insist they be just like us. We insist they be human. And what could be more human than the act of

<sup>1</sup> Ed Miliband was the leader of the Labour Party. This picture has its own Wikipedia page. It was a photo-op.

<sup>2</sup> Scandals are often called -gate because the Watergate Scandal (do your own research)

eating? Eating is **genuinely** a shared experience. The problem is it's an ugly, **ungainly** shared experience. It's just too human.

Try watching the people you love eating. It's a mess. As you open your mouth, there's a flash of **wobble** and pink of the sort the pathologist will see when they come to conduct the inevitable postmortem on your chilling cadaver. There is the sticky shine of saliva, there's the way your eyelids **flutter**, your lips roll outwards. Ever seen a German Shepherd running excitedly towards its owner, its tongue flapping in the wind? That's you, photographed eating, only without the excitement.

This shouldn't be regarded as a negative. Eating is messy because it's meant to be. Show me someone who **daintily forks away** morsels between tidy, **pursed** lips and I will show you someone who could never be my friend. Eating should be noisy and generous, a mess of **flailing** body parts.

Curiously, moving images of people eating are fine, which is good because television is full of them. Some of them are of me. It's the freeze frame that doesn't work. Even Barack Obama, the coolest politician on the planet, looks unelectable when photographed eating. If you really want to put yourself off your lunch Google the image of Barack Obama and David Cameron eating together at a ball game.

They look like unloved cats **expelling** fur balls. Me, I refuse to be photographed eating. It's a **red line**. I won't do it. And do you know who else was never photographed eating? Winston Churchill, a **chap** who knew a thing or two about maintaining his dignity. That's who. I rest my case<sup>3</sup>.



**A. VOCABULARY - Match the following definitions or synonyms with the corresponding words from the article**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. <b>the fastest, farthest, or highest point or degree considered safe</b> | a red line  |
| 2. <b>truLY</b>   | genuinelyLY |
| 3. <b>Br. A fellow (man, boy)</b>   | A chap      |
| 4. <b>WITH nice attention to taste in food or to personal comfort</b>       | daintiLY    |

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<sup>3</sup> said when one believes that something that has just happened or been said proves that one is right or telling the truth; said by lawyers in a law court when they have finished the explanation of their case

5. lacking clothing	bare
6. Br. slang: A penis, A stupid and/or contemptible man	A knob
7. forcing out, ejecting	expelling
8. move with quick wavering or flapping motions	flutter
9. run ragged	made very tired
10. moving or causing to move with a jerky rocking or side-to-side motion	wobbling
11. contracted into folds or wrinkles	pursed
12. other than	short of
13. clumsily, awkwardly	ungainly
14. operated or had an effect	kicked in
15. of, relating to, resembling, or suggesting that of a world other than the actual world	other-worldly
16. showing or expressing dignity	dignified
17. eat up with a fork	fork away

## A. COMPREHENSION

### 1. Present the document briefly: type, source, date/context, illustrations, topic.

Type of article: an opinion piece by a food critic (not a political journalist)

Source: *The Observer*, left-wing newspaper (back then)

Context: local and European election campaign

Illustrations: three photo-ops = staged pictures (the least scripted one is the picture of Obama and Cameron eating hotdogs, which is more spontaneous because it was about showing them having a friendly relationship at a ball game)

Topic : politicians photographed eating / the lengths politicians are willing to go to appear normal, like everymen

### 2. Why do politicians “fear... the eating shot?” (60 words)

- Look at what that image of Ed Miliband eating a bacon sandwich did to him (...) That one image raised a brutal question: could you imagine this man, the one with the expression like the ketamine has just kicked in, running the country?
- The problem is it's an ugly, ungainly shared experience. It's just too human.
- Try watching the people you love eating. It's a mess.
- Ever seen a German Shepherd running excitedly towards its owner, its tongue flapping in the wind? That's you, photographed eating, only without the excitement.
- Eating is messy because it's meant to be.

- Even Barack Obama, the coolest politician on the planet, looks unelectable when photographed eating.

They fear the “eating shot” because everyone looks bad when they eat, which is only natural. Even Barack Obama looks uncool when he is photographed eating. The problem is that such pictures may have very negative effects on collective perceptions of politicians when they appear ridiculous, as was the case with Ed Miliband and his bacon sandwich.

### **3. Why are they photographed eating anyway? (60 words)**

- It’s terribly unfair. In the old days politicians were allowed to be dignified and remote figures, other-worldly emissaries from Planet Leadership.
- Now, in the age of the selfie and the close-up, we insist they be just like us.
- We insist they be human.
- And what could be more human than the act of eating?
- The problem is it’s an ugly, ungainly shared experience. It’s just too human.

Although (= even if) it can be hazardous to their careers, politicians still agree to “eating shots” because they have no choice. Indeed, such pictures are expected of them in the digital age, when it has become normal for everyone to share their experiences. Therefore (= consequently), people want politicians to present themselves as relatable, which naturally includes being seen eating.

### **4. What is the writer’s relationship to ‘eating shots’ and what do you think it reveals about his personality? (60 words)**

The writer, a food critic, feels the need to inform his readership (= the people who read him) that he stays above the fray by refusing to be photographed eating, which could be considered part of his job description. Throughout (=from the beginning until the end of) the text, the writer uses sarcasm to mock politicians photographed while eating. His attacks on Ed Miliband can be considered vicious, and his comments on David Cameron are openly insulting. All these elements go to show that he has a high opinion of himself.

## **Commentary: The Sandwichgate picture (p. 6)**

Few photographs become so famous as to have their own Wikipedia page, as is the case with the photograph of Labour Party member Ed Miliband eating a bacon sandwich during a 2014 campaign photo opportunity commissioned by *The Evening Standard*. This leads me to wonder: to what extent has the visual design of the photograph contributed to its enduring power of infamy?

To begin with, the layout places Ed Miliband, then campaigning leader of the Opposition, at the centre of the image, which immediately draws the viewer's eye to him. His face and hands are the main focus, framed closely, while the background remains blurry and therefore secondary. This central positioning makes the awkwardness of his facial expression inescapable.

Furthermore, colour contrast plays a key role. Indeed, Miliband is wearing a dark suit, which suggests seriousness and authority. However, the purple tie intended to look edgy stands in sharp contrast to the bright green background, helping to draw further attention to his face and hands. In addition, the warm colours of the bacon sandwich stand out against both the dark suit and the green background, making it unusually prominent and increasing the comic effect.

In conclusion, the layout and colours strongly contributed to how the photograph has been interpreted. Thus, the photograph is one of the most unflattering pictures ever taken of a politician, not only because of the look on Miliband's face, but also because the central framing, tight composition, and colour contrast worked against him. Ultimately, one should bear in mind that until Zorhan Mamdani came along, no politician ever looked good when photographed eating, Barack Obama included.