

EXAMEN TERMINAL D'ANGLAIS - ÉPREUVE ORALE - NIVEAU 3 - MAI 2026

Date :
Nom + Numéro de l'étudiant•e :

Créneau horaire :

Vous pouvez écrire sur le sujet ou le surligner mais devrez le rendre à la fin de votre oral.

Preparation – 1 hour:

1) **Part 1:** Introduce the text (type, author, source, date and context) and explain in your own words what the main ideas are.

2) **Part 2:** Answer the following question in a structured and coherent way (use linking words). Give 2 or 3 strong arguments and relevant examples.

Are the British royals successful at controlling their image? Based on what you have learned about the British monarchy this semester, explain why/why not with two or three strong arguments and pertinent examples.

(Recommendation: prepare a detailed outline (= *un plan détaillé*) as this will help you make an effective presentation).

Oral exam – 15 minutes:

1) Introduce the text and give your presentation without reading your notes. (10 mn)

2) Questions and discussion with the examiner about your presentation. (5 mn)

Is this photo the ultimate royal portrait?

Eddy Frankel, *The Guardian*, 20 February 2026 (adapted and abridged)

- 1 They say the camera adds 10 pounds. Does it also add a sudden, terrifying understanding of the abject horror of existence? Phil Noble's apparently does. The Reuters photographer's shot of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor leaving Aylsham police station in the back of his Range Rover is an image filled with shock, pain and horror. Noble's harsh, blinding flash paints Andrew in pink, red and white – his skin is sickly, his eyes are hollow and red like a rat's. His hands are steeped as if in prayer, like he's pleading with a higher power for absolution.

This photograph's composition is one of pure luck. Noble took shots as Mountbatten-Windsor rushed past. Two were blank, two were of the police, one was out of focus. Only this one came out right. Only this one gave us a private glimpse of power crumbling and rotting away in real time.

In the social media and cameraphone age, it's harder than ever for a single image to stand out. That this one has somehow done so shows how important and powerful it is. Whatever precise crimes Mountbatten-Windsor is or isn't guilty of, in one incredibly fortuitous photo Noble has captured the visceral anguish of having to live with what you've done, and deal with its repercussions.

It's the eyes that do it. They suck you into the photo's abyss: Mountbatten-Windsor is aghast¹, stupefied, frozen in wide-eyed dismay² and distress. Those red eyes, like two little
20 portals to hell, are not angry or vicious: they are confused and overwhelmed. They're the same eyes you see in the anguished howler of Edvard Munch's *The Scream* or Gustave Courbet's *Desperate Man*.

It's a long way from how royalty has been portrayed in history. All the gold, pomp and circumstance swapped for the end-of-empire, wipe-clean luxury of a Range Rover's
25 all-white leather interior and the mortifying shame of being the first senior royal to be arrested in modern history.

Images of rulers are controlled, approved, mediated by the rulers themselves. Royals, despots and tyrants don't allow any old portrait out into wider society. But this isn't official, this isn't mediated – it's a window into a private moment. Royal families around the world
30 must be furious that someone invented telephoto lenses.

Important royal portraits record a small handful of historic truths instead of a wider, more nuanced narrative. Most of us know absolutely nothing about Charles II of Spain, but one glimpse of his huge jaw³ in Juan Carreño de Miranda's 17th century portrait of him triggers immediate thoughts of inbreeding⁴ and how it was a tool of control, greed and empire. This photo will tell a similar story in the future. It will forever link the British royal family to the
35 Epstein files and all the dark truths they have revealed.

Will this be their legacy? Will this be how history remembers the royals in the early 21st century? Not as gilded⁵ icons, or decorated, powerful leaders standing proud with chests covered in military medals like the royals of old – but as decaying⁶, broken spectres that haunt a decaying, broken nation.



¹ Aghast: sidéré

² Dismay: désarroi

³ Jaw: mâchoire

⁴ Inbreeding: consanguinité

⁵ Gilded: doré-e

⁶ Decaying: en décomposition

Sujet d'entraînement