

EXAMEN TERMINAL D'ANGLAIS - ÉPREUVE ORALE - NIVEAU 4 - MAI 2026

Date :

Créneau horaire :

Nom + Numéro de l'étudiant•e :

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

Preparation – 1 hour:

1) Summary: present the text and summarize the main ideas in your own words.

2) Commentary: present a structured analysis of the text with 2 or 3 main points that you illustrate with pertinent examples.

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

Oral exam – 15 minutes:

1) Present your summary and commentary without reading your notes. (10 mn)

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

How Zohran Mamdani Built a Campaign Around Food

Priya Krishna, *The New York Times*, September 30, 2025 (adapted and abridged)

1 The late-night visit to Kabab King was ostensibly for a campaign interview. But the minute the food hit the table, Zohran Mamdani became lost in the chicken biryani in front of him, digging into the plate with joyful abandon.

After a few minutes, a light dawned in his eyes. He looked up and apologized for not
5 sharing. "Sorry," he said sheepishly¹. "As you can tell, I'm hungry."

He continued to apologize throughout the meal at Kabab King, a 24-hour restaurant in Jackson Heights, Queens, that he's been visiting since high school.

The Democratic nominee and front-runner for mayor, Mr. Mamdani is very much aware how attentive New Yorkers are to how their politicians interact with food, and how judgmental
10 they can be. The former mayor Bill de Blasio was mocked in 2014 for eating a pizza with a fork and knife rather than folded and by hand in the New York style. The current mayor, Eric Adams, faced a similar scolding² when he was caught eating fish after professing to follow a plant-based diet.

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¹ sheepishly: in an embarrassed manner, especially over being found out in a fault

² to scold: to criticize severely or angrily

But no mayoral candidate's relationship to food has been more scrutinized or showcased than Mr. Mamdani's, often by his own choice. A lover of delis³ and bodegas, he is harnessing⁴ food as both campaign tool and policy plank⁵.

20 Mr. Mamdani — at 33, suddenly one of the most famous faces in American politics — has proposed opening a city-owned grocery store in each of the five boroughs of New York to make ingredients more affordable, and repealing some of the laws and regulations that have curtailed⁶ street vending. He has held news conferences at his favorite restaurants, and conducted many press interviews inside them.

25 And the social-media blitz that has been widely credited for his success often focuses on food. In posts with hundreds of thousands of views, he has framed his central message — making the city more affordable — around the rising price of halal chicken and rice, and used Bengali sweets to explain the ranked-choice voting system.

30 The way Mr. Mamdani references food at “the personal level and the policy level — and his skill in doing it is probably unusual, if not completely new,” said Grant Davis Reeher, a political science professor at Syracuse University.

35 Others worry that those skills won't translate to political leadership. “The mechanics of running the city government and the city are far different than the feel-good images you can make on social media,” said Jim Kessler, the executive vice president for policy at Third Way, a think tank run by moderate Democrats. “Governing as an influencer will not work. People need results.”

Food has been a staple⁷ of political campaigns for as long as candidates have gnawed on pork ribs at state fairs to show a common touch. And as inflation and healthy eating have become hot issues, it's commonplace to hear campaign speeches about egg prices or artificial food colourings.

40 But Mr. Mamdani leverages⁸ food in a different, more powerful way, said Adam Bozzi, a Washington-based Democratic political strategist who is not involved with any of the mayoral campaigns.

45 Food is “part of his language to make his politics really accessible,” Mr. Bozzi said. Food is a background character in his videos, meant to make the setting — and him — feel familiar to voters. “Which is different from the actual food being the event, like ‘I am eating a cheesesteak’.”

50 Mr. Mamdani's focus on street foods and inexpensive neighborhood restaurants serves a bigger strategy: portraying himself as a relatable everyman. And while dropping in at restaurants is nothing new for New York politicians, what is different is the way Mr. Mamdani interacts with the owners, said Dr. Basil Smikle Jr., a former executive director of the New York State Democratic Party who is now a professor at Columbia's School of Professional Studies.

“He uses food in the way that an influencer might,” said Dr. Smikle.

³ a deli: a store where ready-to-eat food products (such as cooked meats and prepared salads) are sold

⁴ to harness: to put to work; to utilize

⁵ a policy plank: an article in the platform of a political party

⁶ to curtail: to make less by or as if by cutting off part of

⁷ a staple: a chief part of something

⁸ to leverage: to use (something, such as skills or influence) to achieve or enhance a desired result

Sujet d'entraînement