

**EXAMEN TERMINAL D'ANGLAIS - ÉPREUVE ORALE - NIVEAU 5 - 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 (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 gleeful abandon.

After a few minutes, a light dawned. He looked up and apologized for not sharing. “Sorry,”

5 he said sheepishly. “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 next day, a campaign aide texted her regrets.

10 The Democratic nominee and front-runner for mayor, Mr. Mamdani is keenly aware how attentive New Yorkers are to how their politicians interact with food, and how judgmental 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 scolding when he was spotted eating fish after professing to follow a plant-based diet.

15 But no mayoral candidate’s relationship to food has been more scrutinized or showcased than Mr. Mamdani’s, often by his own choice. A devotee of delis and bodegas who once filmed a music video at Kabab King under the rap moniker “Mr. Cardamom,” he is harnessing<sup>1</sup> food as both campaign tool and policy plank<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> to harness: to put to work; to utilize

<sup>2</sup> a policy plank: an article in the platform of a political party

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 to make ingredients more affordable, and repealing some of the laws and regulations that have curtailed 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 specific culinary benchmarks like the rising price of halal chicken and rice, and used Bengali sweets as props to explain ranked-choice voting.

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 Food has been a staple of retail politics for as long as candidates have gnawed on pork ribs at state fairs to display 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 dyes. [...]

But Mr. Mamdani leverages 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.

40 Food is “part of his language to make his politics really accessible,” Mr. Bozzi said. It’s 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 fried butter or the cheesesteak.’ That feels a little more contrived<sup>3</sup>.”

45 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 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. [...]

50 He often talks to people about what they eat — like how the classic \$1 New York pizza slice no longer costs a dollar. “Food is a very quick way to understand the rising cost of living in the city, because people remember the cost of staples<sup>4</sup> in their lives,” he said.

55 But if food can make a connection with voters, it can just as easily alienate them. Mr. Mamdani experienced a minor food scandal in March, when he posted a photo of himself on X eating a burrito on the subway. Scores of commenters denounced that as unhygienic and disrespectful to fellow passengers.

60 He responded with a video in which he said, “I hear you, I see you and if you’re a burrito on the Q train, I eat you.” [...]

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<sup>3</sup> contrived: artificial, laboured

<sup>4</sup> a staple: a commodity for which the demand is constant



Mr. Mamdani said that for him, food is less a campaign strategy than it is an instinctual medium for talking to voters. Amir Hamja for The New York Times