



Les 7 Sciences Po du réseau

# **EXAMEN COMMUN D'ENTREE EN PREMIERE ANNEE**

## **EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS**

### **SAMEDI 22 AVRIL 2023**

**14h00 à 17h00**

**(durée conseillée : 1h00)**

**coeff. 1.5**

**Ce sujet est composé de 3 pages**

Il est demandé aux candidats de répondre directement sur leur copie en indiquant clairement les numéros des exercices.  
[Aucun document autorisé]

If we don't defend free speech, we live in tyranny: Salman Rushdie shows us that  
Margaret Atwood, The Guardian, 19 August 2022

In any future monument to murdered, tortured, imprisoned and persecuted  
writers, Salman Rushdie will feature large. On 12 August, he was stabbed on  
stage by an assailant at a literary event (...). Without doubt, this attack was  
directed at him because his fourth novel, *The Satanic Verses* (...) got used as a  
5 *tool in a political power struggle in a distant country.*

When your regime is under pressure, a little book-burning creates a popular  
distraction. Writers (...) make cheap scapegoats. They're so easy to blame: their  
medium is words, which are by nature ambiguous and subject to  
misinterpretation, and they themselves are often mouthy. Worse, they frequently  
10 speak truth to power. Even apart from that, their books will annoy some people.  
As writers themselves have frequently said, if what you've written is universally  
liked, you must be doing something wrong. But when you offend a ruler, things  
can get lethal, as many writers have discovered.

In Rushdie's case, the power that used him as a pawn was the Ayatollah  
15 Khomeini of Iran. In 1989, he issued a fatwa [against him] (...). Khomeini also  
offered a large reward to anyone who would murder Rushdie. Rushdie spent  
many years in enforced hiding, but gradually he came out of his cocoon (...)  
He never missed an opportunity to speak out on behalf of the principles he'd  
been embodying all his writing life. Freedom of expression was foremost among  
20 these. Once a yawn-making liberal platitude, this concept has now become a hot-  
button issue, since the extreme right has attempted to kidnap it in the service of  
libel, lies and hatred, and the extreme left has tried to toss it out the window in  
the service of its version of earthly perfection. (...) But whatever it is, the right to  
freedom of expression does not include the right to defame, to lie maliciously and  
25 damagingly about provable facts, to issue death threats, or to advocate murder.  
These should be punished by law.

(...) Living in a pluralistic democracy means being surrounded by a multiplicity of  
voices, some of which will be saying things you don't like. Unless you're prepared  
to uphold their right to speak, as Salman Rushdie has done so often, you'll end  
30 up living in a tyranny.

## Questions

### I. Compréhension écrite: (6 points)

In your own words, answer the following questions about the text using complete sentences (concise answers are expected):

1. According to Margaret Atwood, why does artistic free speech matter in a democracy? (1pt)
2. Why are writers often targeted by authoritarian regimes? (1 pt)
3. Does Margaret Atwood support unlimited artistic freedom of expression? Justify your answer. (2pts)
4. What does Atwood mean by "If what you've written is universally liked, you must be doing something wrong." (paragraph 2)? (1pt)
5. What is the meaning of the expression "used him as a pawn" (paragraph 3)? (1pt)

### II. Expression écrite : (14 points)

Write an essay on the following topic (300 words , +/- 10 %).

Does free speech include the right to offend other people? Feel free to give examples from other countries or other historical periods.