

Copie anonyme - n°anonymat : 436710

N9-00314
436710
ELVI_LV1



Code épreuve : 7568

Nombre de pages : 6

Session : 2023

Épreuve de : LVA ELY1 Anglais HEC/ESSEC

Consignes

- Remplir soigneusement l'en-tête de chaque feuille avant de commencer à composer
- Rédiger avec un stylo non effaçable bleu ou noir
- Ne rien écrire dans les marges (gauche et droite)
- Numéroté chaque page (cadre en bas à droite)
- Placer les feuilles A3 ouvertes, dans le même sens et dans l'ordre

(I) According to the authors of documents 1 and 2 what is the legacy of Queen Elizabeth II?

In the wake of the queen's death, the future of the British monarchy has never been so uncertain. Queen Elizabeth II reigned for over 70 years and steeply impacted the monarchy's popularity, but her passing has prompted critics on both the monarchy's past and present. Documents 1 and 2 both analyze what Elizabeth has left for her successor.

The queen was extremely popular in the United Kingdom but her popularity hid the flaws of the British political system. Document 1 emphasises the fact that the monarchy's popularity relied on that of Queen Elizabeth II. She gave the illusion of unity among the different nations of the UK and represented stability, even though the country was undergoing a crisis. Document 2 shows that the queen's popularity even managed to shelve Britain's shameful past, which included colonization, slavery and a violent decolonization. Even though efforts were made to make up for that past, the columnist underlines the alarming feeling of an imperial resumption in British politics. Thus, the queen's passing has brought light upon all these concerning issues.

Moreover, the queen seems to have left a divided nation and an ailing monarchy for Charles III. Indeed, document 1 shows that the queen's death is a clear threat to the monarchy as a whole, as its value seems to have vanished with her. Independence movements illustrate the division of Britain and the columnist contends that these growing movements could lead to a unified Ireland for instance. Not only is the queen's death a risk for the United Kingdom's territorial integrity, it is also a risk for the Crown itself. Document 2 proves that the monarchy no longer represents the British population and is adamant on the fact that it should come to an end. The monarchy lacks diversity and seems disconnected from its time which explains why some countries have decided to depart from the Commonwealth including Barbados. Therefore, secessionist threats and a fragile system seem to be the queen's legacy.

As a conclusion, both documents stress that the queen's death is synonymous with the end of an era; her legacy consists in a divided nation and an ailing institution.

357 words

II In your opinion, will the British monarchy survive the current challenges to its existence or not?

In 2021, students from Oxford University took down a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, claiming she was the face of colonization and an archaic institution. The British monarchy has since undergone several scandals which put into question the future of the institution altogether. Although the ^{chances} of the monarchy completely disappearing are slim, I personally believe that the only way the British monarchy can survive is by ushering in an entirely new era, more in line with modern times.

One of the biggest challenges to the monarchy's existence is its relevance today. The British monarchy wields little to no power, which questions its relevance. Indeed after historical events like Magna Carta in 1215, which discredited the idea that the royal family was superior, or the Glorious Revolution in 1688, which put an end to the absolute monarchy, the British monarchy lost all its power. The only role it seems to have is that of representation abroad. However, the British monarchy's image has been tarnished because of its scandals and no longer seems to correctly represent its population.

The British monarchy has been the center of several scandals in the past few years, which threaten its existence. The monarchy seems to condone controversial morals, which only widens the gap between the Royal family and the British population. For instance, Virginia Guiffre accused Prince Andrew of abusing her when she was only a minor. The monarchy was very quiet even though Andrew's BBC interview made him look very guilty. At the time, the queen begrudgingly stripped him from his titles and paid for his legal charges. This affair did not sit well with the Britons in a context of the Me Too movement. Thus, if the British monarchy wishes to remain relevant, it must reinvent itself, take its distances from scandals and

spread modern values.

The British monarchy's existence is also threatened by large discontent all over the United Kingdom. The fact that being born in the right family grants certain people privileges and extreme wealth, should be reason enough for the monarchy, known today, to fall. Indeed, members of the institution comfortably live in palaces whereas the average Briton is struggling because of the energy crisis. The population has dealt with a 10% inflation and electricity bills that have doubled, making the monarchy seem very unfair. Moreover, the monarchy is actually expensive. Monarchists will argue that it costs less than a pound per person per year but that is underestimating the true cost. The queen's funeral cost over seven million pounds in a time when the population was struggling. This can explain why 1/4 of the population wants to abolish the monarchy (Document 4) and can also explain why the population feels disconnected to it, on the contrary of document 3.

The biggest issue the monarchy has to deal with today is Charles' III popularity. To survive he should work on his reputation, which is far worse than his mother's. His nickname was "Prince of Wails" because he was known for complaining, on the contrary to Queen Elizabeth II who adopted the "Never complain, never explain" motto. This explains his lack of popularity (Document 5).

In conclusion, the current monarchy has questionable ethics and seems to be a hold over from another era. To survive it should reinvent itself.

548 words

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III Thème

Michael Young and Edward Shils, who walked in the crowded streets of London on the day of the queen's coronation in 1953, described the event as a "grand gesture of national communion." They wrote that one could make sense out of it as a "collective experience and not as an individual one", which gathered thousands of families in a popular spirit and was reminiscent of the celebration of the victory against nazi Germany. Human warmth had filled the air, even pickpockets had stopped their activity, and a spirit of fraternity reigned. That spirit would have horrified "those who have the rational bias of educated people of our time, especially those with a radical or liberal political provision".

Today, even though inequalities have not stopped growing in the United Kingdom, the monarchy seems to have kept its popularity. Almost two out of three Britons approve its existence. Only 22% of them wish for it to be abolished, with the Scottish population being the most reluctant. There is a surprising paradox: when times are difficult, the Royal Family seems to be a distraction or a reassuring friend. During the Royal weddings of the past decade, there was always someone to purport that the nation's mood

NE RIEN ÉCRIRE DANS CE CADRE

needed to be uplifted.



