

E1.2 : LANGUE ANGLAISE APPLIQUÉE À L'INFORMATIQUE ET À LA GESTION
--

(partie écrite)

Durée : 2 heures

Coefficient : 2

L'usage d'un dictionnaire bilingue est autorisé.

Les calculatrices sont interdites.

WHAT THE INTERNET CANNOT DO.

1 The wildest optimism has greeted the Internet. A whole industry of cybergurus has enthralled audiences (and made a fine living) with exuberant claims that the Internet will prevent wars, reduce pollution, and combat various forms of inequality. However, although the Internet is still young enough to inspire idealism, it has also been around long enough to test whether the
5 prophets can be right.

Grandest of all the claims are those made by some of the savants at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology about the Internet's potential as a force for peace. [...] The idea is that improved communications will reduce misunderstandings and avert conflict.

10 This is not new, alas, any more than were the claims for the peace-making possibilities of other new technologies [...]. Indeed, even if that were true, the Internet can also be used to advocate conflict. Hate speech and intolerance flourish in its murkier corners, where governments (as France is now discovering) find it hard to intervene. [...].

15 But might it reduce energy consumption and pollution ? [...] Certainly, shopping online from home is far less polluting than driving to a shopping mall. [...] Yet doing things online is more energy-efficient only if it genuinely displaces real-world activities. If people shop online as well as visiting the bricks-and-mortar store, the result is an overall increase in energy consumption. [...] And it is more efficient to read documents online only if doing so replaces, rather than adds to, the amount of printed bumbf.

20 Furthermore, as more and more offices and homes connect to the Internet, millions of PCs, printers, servers and other devices gobble significant quantities of energy. [...]

25 What about the belief that the Internet will reduce inequality? According to a study carried out by America's Department of Commerce, households with annual incomes above \$75,000 are more than 20 times as likely to have Internet access as the poorest households. Bill Clinton, struck by the "digital divide" between rich and poor, argues that universal Internet access would help to reduce income inequality.

30 But, as the cost of using the Internet continues to fall (services offering free access are becoming the norm, and a basic PC can now be had for little more than a video recorder), the true reason for the digital divide between rich and poor will become apparent. The poor are not shunning the Internet because they cannot afford it: the problem is that they lack the skills to exploit it effectively. [...]

Yet, even in the more ludicrous claims for the Internet, there may be germs of truth. This open network, so hard for governments to control, may indeed help to give more power to

individual citizens and encourage democracies. As democratic governments rarely fight each other, that might promote peace. As for the environment, the Internet will allow many pieces of machinery to be monitored and tuned more precisely from afar. That will promote energy efficiency. [...]

Even inequality may, in some cases, be reduced thanks to the Internet. A computer programmer in Bangalore or Siberia can use the Internet to work for a software company in Seattle without leaving home, and can expect to be paid a wage that is closer to that of his virtual colleagues at the other end of the cable. [...]

The Internet changes many things. It has had a dramatic impact on the world of business. [...] For individuals, e-mail has emerged as the most important new form of personal communication since the invention of the telephone.

The extent to which the Internet will transform other fields of human endeavour, however, is less certain. Humanity cannot simply invent away its failings. The Internet is not the first technology to have been hailed as a panacea and it will certainly not be the last.

Adapted from The Economist, August 19th 2000.

QUESTIONS

Indiquez, pour chaque partie, le nombre de mots utilisés.

PREMIÈRE PARTIE (12 points)

Résumez le texte **en français** en 220 mots

DEUXIÈME PARTIE (8 points)

Répondez **en anglais** à **l'une des deux questions** suivantes : (150 mots).

- a) Thinking of the advantages and drawbacks of working from home, would you like to work for a software company in Seattle, for example ?

- b) What is your position concerning government intervention on the Internet ?