

**UNIVERSITE PARIS 1 PANTHEON-SORBONNE**

**UFR 06 / SGEL**

**Licence de Gestion et Economie d'Entreprise**

**Examen de rattrapage d'anglais appliqué à la gestion, semestres 1 & 2**

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Sujet rédigé en collaboration avec Caroline Peynaud, ATER

Date : 22 Juin 2012

Durée : 2 heures

**Instructions :**

No documents allowed. Write your answers on the official answer sheets provided.

**PART 1. Reading**

- A. Read the following text below entitled "**Refinery strike: nuclear power workers threaten to join protest**" and address the ensuing comprehension questions and vocabulary exercises.

**Refinery strike: nuclear power workers threaten to join protest**

*Nuclear power workers will next week join a growing wave of industrial unrest that yesterday saw more than 3,000 oil and gas workers walk out in protest at construction jobs going to foreign workers.*

As demonstrations spread from Lincolnshire to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, many of the protesters targeted their anger on Gordon Brown over his pledge to deliver "British jobs for British workers"

The wildcat action began on Thursday when hundreds of workers gathered at Total's Lindsey oil refinery in Lincolnshire to protest against the company's decision to award a £200m construction contract to an Italian firm, IREM, which plans to carry out the work using Italian and Portuguese staff.

The contract is one of several major construction jobs in the energy industry to go to a foreign contractor, but with UK unemployment rising fast, unions say workers are increasingly angry about what they feel are unfair practices by employers.

More than 1,500 workers staged unofficial walkouts at six sites in Scotland in support of the disputes. There were also demonstrations at the Wilton refinery on Teeside, the Milford Haven natural gas terminal, Pembrokeshire, and the South Wales Kilroot Power station in County Antrim.

More workers could walk out next week in sympathy, including hundreds of contractors at Sellafield, the country's biggest nuclear plant. 900 contractors at Sellafield plan to meet before work on Monday to discuss taking industrial action in support of Lindsey workers. The firm said it was confident a walkout "would have no impact on safety, security or production".

Unite, the country's biggest union, on Friday called for workers from across the UK to converge on Westminster in a "national protest" to put pressure on Mr Brown over labour laws. It also said it was consulting lawyers over claims – disputed by the firms – that contractors may have acted unlawfully by failing to allow UK workers to compete for jobs on UK projects.

It also said it was consulting lawyers over claims – disputed by the firms – that contractors may have acted unlawfully by failing to allow UK workers to compete for jobs on UK projects. Derek Simpson, Unite's joint leader, said: "The union is doing everything in its power to ensure that employers end this immoral, potentially illegal and politically dangerous practice of excluding UK workers from some construction projects."

Since becoming Prime Minister in 2007, Mr Brown has several times used "British jobs for British workers" phrase.

In an effort to be seen as to be acting over the protests, No 10 announced that the Government will next week hold talks with major construction firms and industry groups, "to make sure they are doing all they can to support UK economy". However, No 10 stopped short of asking workers not to protest. "This is for workers to resolve with employers", the spokesman said.

James Kirkup, Auslan Cramb & Stephen Adams, Telegraph media group limited, 2009.

#### B. Comprehension (5 points)

*Answer these questions briefly. Do NOT quote from the text.*

1. What decision is at the origin of the strikes described in the text?
2. Why do the Sellafield workers consider these practices as "unfair"?
3. Why are the Sellafield contractors also going to take action?
4. How did the unions put pressure on the industries and the government?
5. What is the government's decision regarding these strikes?

#### C. Vocabulary (5 points)

*I. Explain the following words in English (2.5 points)*

1. union (paragraph 4):
2. unemployment (paragraph 4):
3. to walk in sympathy (paragraph 6):
4. claims (paragraph 8):
5. No 10 (paragraph 10):

II. Find words in the text, which mean the following (2.5 points)

1. organized refusal to work by employees in an attempt to force their employers to meet their demands:
2. work stoppages and protests outside the factory:
3. unofficial and sudden strike:
4. joined together:
5. protests and marches in the street:

**PART 2. Grammar (5 points)**

Fill in the blanks with *for, since or ago*

1. They have operated as joint directors \_\_\_\_\_ the company started.
2. Orders have risen \_\_\_\_\_ the start of the new TV campaign.
3. The strike started in January, three weeks \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Our sales executives have used the same hotel \_\_\_\_\_ over 20 years.
5. I can't get hold of Eric. He has been in a meeting \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30.
6. When I joined the company, I worked in the L.A. branch \_\_\_\_\_ 6 months.
7. Car prices have fallen \_\_\_\_\_ the introduction of the new EU directive.
8. We have done all our business in Euro \_\_\_\_\_ 2002.
9. The financial crisis that started four years \_\_\_\_\_ is not over yet.
10. It isn't a new Mercedes car. He has had it \_\_\_\_\_ several years.

**PART 3. Writing (5 points)**

These are two common opinions about trade unions:

1. Strike action by unions can be damaging to the economy and has been used as an economic and political weapon in the past.
2. Unions play an important role in the protection of workers' interests.

Write an essay of about **300 words** on one of the two topics. Organize your essay as follows: a) an introduction

- b) arguments for
- c) arguments against
- d) a conclusion

Provide a word count at the end of your essay

Good luck

## **Key to answers and guidelines for marking**

### **Part 1B. Comprehension (5 points)**

#### Suggested answers

6. *Total's Lindsey oil refinery, in Lincolnshire, decided to award a construction contract to a firm employing Italian and Portuguese workers.*
7. *The practice of employing foreign workers is considered as unfair because the unemployment rate is high in Britain and also because the Prime Minister has repeatedly announced that British jobs should go to British workers.*
8. *They are taking action in support of the Lindsey oil refinery.*
9. *They started unofficial strikes, secondary actions, and Unite called for a national protest. They also consulted lawyers about the company's practices*
10. *The government is holding talks with the industries, but also thinks that the conflict should be resolved between the firms and their employees.*

#### Marking

*Up to 1 point for a correctly worded answer. Quarter of a mark, half a mark or three quarters of a mark can also be awarded depending on how satisfied you are with both the form and the content. Nothing to be awarded for a wrong answer or for a blank.*

### **Part 1C. Vocabulary (5 points)**

#### Section I : (2.5 points)

#### Suggested answers

1. Union (paragraph 4): *workers' organisations set up to defend the rights and interests of workers. It's another word for trade union.*
2. Unemployment (paragraph 4): *the situation of being jobless when willing and able to work.*
3. To walk out in sympathy (paragraph 6): *means to take a sympathy action or again to take a secondary action. It refers to a situation where a trade union calls out a strike in support of another industrial action by unionists elsewhere.*
4. Claims (paragraph 8): *It's another word for demands.*
5. N° 10 (paragraph 6): *means N° 10 Downing Street, the address in London of the official residence and offices of the British Prime Minister.*

### Marking

Half a mark for a correctly worded answer. Quarter of a mark for a good answer written with grammatical or spelling mistakes. Nothing to be awarded for a wrong answer or for a blank.

### Section 2 (2.5 points)

#### Suggested answers

1. strike (in the title of the text)
2. walkouts (paragraph 5, line 1)
3. wildcat action (paragraph 3, line 1)
4. gathered (paragraph 3, line 1)
5. demonstrations (paragraph 2, line 1)

### Marking

Half a mark for a correct answer. Please make sure that answers 2 and 5 are actually spelt in the plural form. Give only a quarter of a mark if spelt in the singular form. Nothing to be awarded for a wrong answer or for a blank.

### Part 2. Grammar (5 points)

#### Answers

1. since    2. since    3. ago    4. for    5. since    6. for    7. since    8. since    9. ago  
10. for

### Marking

Half a mark for a correct answer. Nothing to be awarded otherwise.

### Part 3. Writing (1+4= 5 points)

#### Marking

- First, please award **1 point** as a bonus for requisite length. Nothing to be awarded, nor any penalty point to be deducted for inadequate or excess length.

- Then, please read, correct and comment the whole essay and score as follows:

**0.5 point** = poor essay written in poor English, with very little substance.

**1 point** = Attempt to follow the suggested outline. Frequent spelling, vocabulary and grammar mistakes. No fluency of expression.

**2 points** = Good attempt to follow the suggested outline. Some regular spelling,

*vocabulary or grammar mistakes. Problems with the writing style.*

**3 points** = *Good essay. Good substance. Very few spelling, vocabulary or grammar mistakes and a good writing style.*

**4 points** = *Excellent essay. Very good substance. High level English including fluency of expression and a very good writing style. Perfect spelling and good lexical and grammatical choices. No mistakes at all.*

- *Finally, please add the score to the bonus point, if any, and award the overall mark of the section.*