

**CONCOURS COMMUNS
POLYTECHNIQUES****EPREUVE COMMUNE - FILIERES MP - PC - PSI - TSI - TPC****LANGUE VIVANTE A : ANGLAIS****Durée : 3 heures**

N.B. : le candidat attachera la plus grande importance à la clarté, à la précision et à la concision de la rédaction. Si un candidat est amené à repérer ce qui peut lui sembler être une erreur d'énoncé, il le signalera sur sa copie et devra poursuivre sa composition en expliquant les raisons des initiatives qu'il a été amené à prendre.

L'usage de toute machine (calculatrice, traductrice, etc.) est strictement interdit.

Rédiger en anglais et en 400 mots une synthèse des documents proposés, qui devra obligatoirement comporter un titre.

Indiquer avec précision, à la fin du travail, le nombre de mots utilisés (titre inclus), un écart de 10 % en plus ou en moins sera accepté.

Vous aurez soin d'en faciliter la vérification, soit en précisant le nombre de mots par ligne, soit en mettant un trait vertical tous les vingt mots.

Ce sujet comporte les 4 documents suivants :

- **document 1** : adapté d'un article de Noral G Hertel, extrait de BestThinking.com, last consulted 08/01/2015.
- **document 2** : adapté d'un article de Danny Kemp, extrait de l'AFP (Agence France Presse), 14 septembre 2014.
- **document 3** : adapté d'un article de John Fund, extrait de *National Review Online*, 27 avril 2014.
- **document 4** : un graphique du *New York Times*, 7 octobre 2012.

Les documents ont une égale importance.

Document 1

Nationalism Fueled by Economic Discontent in European Separatist Movements

Nora G Hertel - BestThinking.com, last consulted 08/01/2015

In modern Europe, the current recession appears to be spurring new independence efforts based in historic differences. Besides the economic turmoil, the otherwise peaceful Eurozone provides a forum for political separatists to voice their opinion and move their agendas forward.

Historically, national schisms involved violence and war. But in modern Europe, separatist movements in the United Kingdom and Spain progress towards what could be entirely peaceful separations.

Of the four countries that comprise the UK, Scotland and England boast the only relationship not rooted in English conquests. Although Scotland had to win back its independence from Norman English invaders in Medieval times, the modern union started when a Scottish king inherited the English crown in 1603 and was cemented by mutual laws joining the countries in 1706. Now Scottish citizens, many of them long resentful of what they see as English cultural, political, and economic dominance, are set to vote in a 2014 referendum to decide whether Scotland will once again go it alone.

Modern Spain contains even more fractured parts than the UK. It comprises 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities, remnants of what once were independent kingdoms and principalities on the Iberian Peninsula.

In the northeastern corner of the nation, the region of Catalonia once made up the bulk of the Principality of Catalonia (along with what is now the Catalan region of France). It has its own language, Catalan, with a rich literary tradition. Many Catalonians and immigrants living there think – especially in light of current economic problems – that they would be better off if they were independent from Spain. As in Scotland – and unlike some separatists in the Basque Country of north central Spain and southwestern France who previously sought independence by violent means such as terrorist bombings – the Catalonians seek a bloodless divorce.

High unemployment and poverty motivate the movements in Scotland and Catalonia, but the two regions have very different resources. Scotland owns rich oil wells in the North Sea, but all wells eventually run dry, so that revenue will not last indefinitely.

Catalonia, meanwhile, provides 20 percent of Spain's GDP through tourism and other industries. Residents wish to see their taxes reinvested in local schools and infrastructure rather than to support a national economy struggling in the global recession. "I'm not sure that all this rise in nationalism would have occurred without the economic recession," says Toni Dorca, a native of Catalonia and professor at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

National division, however, remains uncharted territory for the Union. There is no guarantee that either Scotland or an independent Catalonia could achieve entry to the EU on its own. Nations throughout the world are watching these dissenting movements with interest and concern.

Document 2

Europe fears Scottish independence contagion

Danny Kemp, AFP (Agence France-Presse) Sept. 14, 2014

The prospect of Scottish independence is raising fears in Europe that it could inflame other separatist movements at a time when the continent's unity and even its borders are under threat, analysts say. While nationalists from Catalonia to Flanders will watch Scotland's referendum with hope, Brussels is nervous about the possibility of a major European Union member like Britain falling apart. The fear of contagion spreads as far as the EU's eastern frontier, where the Baltic countries worry that Moscow will back their ethnic Russian citizens who could then claim more autonomy. But while the EU might initially make life difficult for a new Scottish nation, it would most likely allow it to join the bloc eventually, experts said.

The EU already has a lot on its plate as it tackles a stalled economy and high unemployment, and has insisted in recent days that the Scottish vote is an "internal matter." But European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso made the position clear in 2012: any newly independent country emerging from an EU nation would no longer be part of the bloc, and would have to reapply for membership. Barroso outraged nationalists in February when he said it would be "extremely difficult" for Scotland to gain automatic membership.

Spain fiercely opposes Catalan plans to vote on independence, a campaign that brought nearly two million people onto the streets of Barcelona Thursday. The Basque region between Spain and France also remains very sensitive. Paris and Madrid opposed the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s and would "probably use whatever clout they have in the EU to make life difficult for Scotland to teach Catalonia a lesson," Calderon-Martinez, a Spanish & European Studies fellow at King's College London, said. EU nations also fear the bloc's international clout is at risk if it cannot stay unified in the face of growing geopolitical challenges.

Document 3

Europe's Secessionist Movements

By John Fund, *National Review Online*, April 27, 2014

The debt crisis and years of barely perceptible economic growth are fueling independence movements in some regions of Europe.

Last month, Venice and its surrounding areas held a non-binding online referendum on independence from Italy. Of the Veneto region's 5 million people, more than 2 million cast ballots, and an astonishing 89 percent supported secession. Even if some of the votes cast were duplicates (something security precautions were erected to prevent), the result clearly shows an alienated and angry electorate. The regional government might soon announce a more formal referendum to be held at polling places.

Catalonia, the region that includes Barcelona and generates one-fifth of Spain's economic activity, is planning to hold a regional referendum on November 9 for independence. The national government in Madrid has refused to grant permission for the referendum and has persuaded the European Union to declare that a new state of Catalonia couldn't become an EU member.

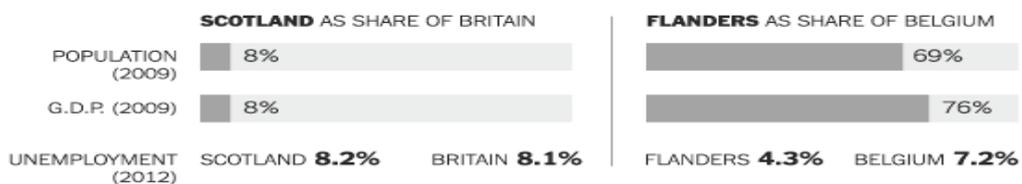
It's safe to say that national governments won't agree that the EU membership can grow through the "internal enlargement" of independent countries. But the restless electorates in some regions may force the national governments to grant more flexibility and freedom to grow. Catalan business owners chafe under Spain's total effective corporate tax rate of 58.6 percent of profits, a clear barrier to economic growth.

The Scottish National Party, which already runs an elected majority government with a great deal of autonomy, has said that an independent Scotland should automatically become an EU member since it would be seceding from an existing EU state. But the European Commission president, speaking to the BBC, said it “would be extremely difficult, if not impossible” for an independent Scotland to join the European Union because all 28 EU member states would have to agree. Britain has also warned that an independent Scotland would be unable to keep the pound sterling as its currency, though this stand might be part of a “bully and bluster” campaign to defeat the independence movement by sowing uncertainty.

Catalonia’s regional economy minister, Andreu Mas-Colell, has described backers of independence as coming from all sides of the political spectrum and also as “strongly pro-European.” “We are a government of moderates – centrist and business-friendly,” he wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* this month. He explained the desire for independence as “a reaction to the recent dramatic reversals in the extent of self-government that Catalonia once enjoyed” in areas ranging from health care to education to public administration.

Document 4

Separation Anxiety Three regional powerhouses in Europe.



The New York Times
Oct. 7, 2012

Fin de l'énoncé