



Compréhension de l'écrit et expression écrite

Le sujet porte sur l'**axe 5** du programme : **Fictions et réalités**

Il s'organise en deux parties :

- 1. Compréhension de l'écrit ;**
- 2. Expression écrite.**

Afin de respecter l'anonymat de votre copie, vous ne devez pas signer votre composition, ni citer votre nom, celui d'un camarade ou celui de votre établissement.

Modèle CCYC : ©DNE

Nom de famille (naissance) :

(Suivi s'il y a lieu, du nom d'usage)

Prénom(s) :

N° candidat : N° d'inscription :

(Les numéros figurent sur la convocation.)

Né(e) le : / /



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

1.1

Texte 1

Budding Fox Mulders and Dana Scullys attracted to the mysteries of the *X-Files* will be disappointed: a new book claims UFOs¹ are all in the mind and should be seen as a form of cultural mass hysteria.

5 British researchers, who uncovered thousands of previously secret government and military reports and investigated dozens of sightings, have concluded that flying saucers were a product of Cold War paranoia — not visitors from outer space.

The study by David Clarke and Andy Roberts concluded that none of the evidence pointed to any form of alien contact. Instead the widespread belief in UFOs that began in the 1950s and lasted until the present day should be seen as a social phenomenon.

10 Clarke said that the UFO craze began at the start of the Cold War, when the new threat of atomic war with the Soviet Union hung over the world. “It was just simple to want to believe in something up there in the sky that could come and rescue us,” he said.

15 Many of the early UFO sightings were seemingly confirmed by Britain’s fledgling radar system, often scrambling fighter planes into the sky to investigate sightings. But, as the new technology improved, the number of incidents appearing on radar quickly dwindled to zero. “That cannot be a coincidence. Those early confirmations were just a product of a primitive radar system,” Clarke said.

20 But Clarke and Roberts, whose research is to be published this week in a book called *Out of the Shadows*, did uncover evidence that the American Secret Service, with the possible connivance of the British, looked at ways of using the public panic over UFOs as a psychological weapon against the Russians.

Paul Harris, “Cold War hysteria sparked UFO obsession, study finds,” *The Guardian*, 05/05/2002.

¹ UFO : Unidentified Flying Object.



Texte 2

It's a great time to believe in aliens.

5 Last week, the *New York Times* published a viral article about reports of UFOs off the East Coast in 2014 and 2015. It included an interview with five Navy pilots who witnessed, and in some cases recorded, mysterious flying objects with “no visible engine or infrared exhaust plumes” that appeared to “reach 30,000 feet and hypersonic speeds.”

No one is quite sure what they saw, but the sightings are striking. And they're part of a growing fascination with the possibility of intelligent alien life.

10 According to Diana Pasulka, a professor at the University of North Carolina and author of the new book *American Cosmic*, belief in UFOs and extraterrestrials is becoming a kind of religion — and it isn't nearly as fringe as you might think.

More than half of American adults and over 60 percent of young Americans believe in intelligent extraterrestrial life. This tracks pretty closely with belief in God, and if Pasulka is right, that's not an accident.

15 Her book isn't so much about the truth of UFOs or aliens as it is about what the appeal of belief in those things says about our culture and the shifting roles of religion and technology in it. On the surface, it's a book about the popularity of belief in aliens, but it's really a deep look at how myths and religions are created in the first place and how human beings deal with unexplainable experiences. [...]

20 “What fascinates me about this new form of religion is that scientists and people who generally distance themselves from things like miracles seem to embrace this new religious form. [...] We're in a kind of planetary crisis at the moment, and there's an increase in apocalyptic beliefs about our capacity to survive on Earth. A lot of people see disaster on the horizon, and there's a deep fear that we won't be able to save ourselves.

25 So what will save us? Well, for some, it will be these advanced beings who come to us and tell us what we can do or how we can escape. Maybe they will help us find another planetary home, or maybe they'll bring some lifesaving technology. Who knows? But these sorts of beliefs are lurking beneath a lot of the popular fascination with alien life.”

Sean Illing, “The new American religion of UFOs”, *Vox*, 04/06/2019.

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1.1

1. Compréhension de l'écrit (10 points)

Give an account of both documents, in English and in your own words, focusing on public fascination with alien or UFO sightings, the explanations for these sightings, and the ways in which belief in extraterrestrial life can be helpful for society.

2. Expression écrite (10 points)

Vous traiterez **en anglais**, et en 120 mots minimum, **l'un des deux sujets suivants au choix** :

Sujet A

You are a scientist who is going to attend the US Congress panel meeting on the subject of UFOs. Prepare a speech for the House of Representatives on the importance of researching extraterrestrial life.

Sujet B

Imagine your own encounter with extraterrestrial life. Recount the experience and its impact on you.