



ANGLAIS

Lundi 7 juin 2021

17h00–20h00

Nom :

Prénom :

Classe :

Matériel autorisé : aucun

Consignes générales : Ne dégrafez pas les feuilles de cette épreuve.

Répondez aux questions de la partie A *Reading* sur la feuille d'examen.
Inscrivez vos réponses aux parties B *Analysis* et C *Writing* sur une feuille
double séparée.

PARTIE A / 15 pts

PARTIE B / 30 pts

PARTIE C / 30 pts

Total / 75 pts

Note :

Part A: Reading Comprehension

Read carefully the following text and answer the questions.

From *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2013) (Slightly adapted).

Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu leaves military-ruled Nigeria for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple for the first time with what it means to be black. This excerpt has omitted the part where the narrator explains that what Ifemelu likes most about Princeton is that it allows her to pretend to be someone else.

1 But she did not like that she had to go to Trenton to braid her hair. It was unreasonable to expect a
2 braiding salon in Princeton — the few black locals she had seen were so light-skinned and lank-
3 haired she could not imagine them wearing braids — and yet as she waited at Princeton Junction
4 station for the train, on an afternoon ablaze with heat, she wondered why there was no place where
5 she could braid her hair. The chocolate bar in her handbag had melted. A few other people were
6 waiting on the platform, all of them white and lean, in short, flimsy clothes. The man standing
7 closest to her was eating an ice cream cone; she had always found it a little irresponsible, the eating
8 of ice cream cones by grown-up American men, especially the eating of ice cream cones by grown-
9 up American men in public. He turned to her and said, "About time," when the train finally creaked
10 in, with the familiarity strangers adopt with each other after sharing in the disappointment of a
11 public service. She smiled at him. The graying hair on the back of his head was swept forward, a
12 comical arrangement to disguise his bald spot. He had to be an academic, but not in the humanities
13 or he would be more self-conscious. A firm science like chemistry, maybe. Before, she would have
14 said, "I know," that peculiar American expression that professed agreement rather than knowledge,
15 and then she would have started a conversation with him, to see if he would say something she
16 could use in her blog. People were flattered to be asked about themselves and if she said nothing
17 after they spoke, it made them say more. They were conditioned to fill silences. If they asked what
18 she did, she would say vaguely, "I write a lifestyle blog," because saying "I write an anonymous
19 blog called *Raceteenth or Various Observations About American Blacks (Those Formerly Known*
20 *as Negroes) by a Non-American Black*" would make them uncomfortable. She had said it, though,
21 a few times. Once to a dreadlocked white man who sat next to her on the train, his hair like old
22 twine ropes that ended in a blond fuzz, his tattered shirt worn with enough piety to convince her
23 that he was a social warrior and might make a good guest blogger. "Race is totally overhyped these
24 days, black people need to get over themselves, it's all about class now, the haves and the have-
25 nots," he told her evenly, and she used it as the opening sentence of a post titled "Not All
26 Dreadlocked White American Guys Are Down."

27 Often, she would sit in cafés, or airports, or train stations, watching strangers, imagining
28 their lives, and wondering which of them were likely to have read her blog. Now her ex-blog. She
29 had written the final post only days ago, trailed by two hundred and seventy-four comments so far.
30 All those readers, growing month by month, linking and cross-posting, knowing so much more
31 than she did; they had always frightened and exhilarated her. SapphicDerrida, one of the most
32 frequent posters, wrote: I'm a bit surprised by how personally I am taking this. Good luck as you
33 pursue the unnamed "life change" but please come back to the blogosphere soon. You've used your
34 irreverent, hectoring, funny and thought-provoking voice to create a space for real conversations
35 about an important subject. Readers like SapphicDerrida, who reeled off statistics and used words
36 like "reify" in their comments, made Ifemelu nervous, eager to be fresh and to impress, so that she
37 began, over time, to feel like a vulture hacking into the carcasses of people's stories for something
38 she could use. Sometimes making fragile links to race. Sometimes not believing herself. The more
39 she wrote, the less sure she became. Each post scraped off yet one more scale of self until she felt
40 naked and false.

41 The ice-cream-eating man sat beside her on the train and, to discourage conversation, she
42 stared fixedly at a brown stain near her feet, a spilled frozen Frappuccino, until they arrived at
43 Trenton. The platform was crowded with black people, many of them fat, in short, flimsy clothes.
44 It still startled her, what a difference a few minutes of train travel made. During her first year in
45 America, when she took New Jersey Transit to Penn Station and then the subway to visit Aunty
46 Uju in Flatlands¹, she was struck by how mostly slim white people got off at the stops in
47 Manhattan and, as the train went further into Brooklyn, the people left were mostly black and fat.
48 She had not thought of them as "fat," though. She had thought of them as "big," because one of the
49 first things her friend Ginika told her was that "fat" in America was a bad word, heaving with
50 moral judgment like "stupid" or "bastard," and not a mere description like "short" or "tall." So she
51 had banished "fat" from her vocabulary. But "fat" came back to her last winter, after almost
52 thirteen years, when a man in line behind her at the supermarket muttered, "Fat people don't need
53 to be eating that shit," as she paid for her giant bag of Tostitos. She glanced at him, surprised,
54 mildly offended, and thought it a perfect blog post, how this stranger had decided she was fat. She
55 would file the post under the tag "race, gender and body size." But back home, as she stood and
56 faced the mirror's truth, she realized that she had ignored, for too long, the new tightness of her
57 clothes, the rubbing together of her inner thighs, the softer, rounder parts of her that shook when
58 she moved. She was fat.

¹ An area of Brooklyn, New York City

PART A Reading Comprehension (15 points) (approximate time 30 minutes; 20% of total points)

1. Find a word or expression within the lines mentioned that matches each synonym or definition given below. Give the verbs in their infinitive form (ex: got → to get). The words are in the order in which they appear in the articles. For verbs, provide the infinitive.

<i>Example</i>	<i>l. 1 to l. 13</i>	<i>to observe (v.)</i>	<i>to watch</i>
1.	l. 1 to l. 13	to weave together (v.)	
2.	l. 1 to l. 13	burning (adj.)	
3.	l. 1 to l. 13	a solid block (n.)	
4.	l. 1 to l. 13	slender, slim (adj.)	
5.	l. 1 to l. 13	to proceed slowly and noisily (v.)	
6.	l. 14 to l. 26	strange, bizarre (adj.)	
7.	l. 14 to l. 26	tightly curled hair (n.)	
8.	l. 14 to l. 26	old and ragged (adj.)	
9.	l. 14 to l. 26	exaggerated, discussed more than necessary (adj.)	
10.	l. 27 to l. 40	to follow (v.)	
11.	l. 27 to l. 40	intimidating (adj.)	
12.	l. 27 to l. 40	to cite or to report readily and at length (v.)	
13.	l. 41 to l. 58	to surprise, to shock (v.)	
14.	l. 41 to l. 58	full of (adj., 2 words)	
15.	l. 41 to l. 58	to remove, to drive out (v.)	
16.	l. 41 to l. 58	To speak indistinctly (v.)	

(_____ /8 pts)

2. For each of the following statements, indicate if they are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F). Indicate the line number(s) where you find the answer (maximum two lines, e.g. lines 25-26).

	T/F	Lines
1. Princeton has mainly a white population.		
2. The train arrives on time.		
3. During the journey to Trenton, Ifemelu is looking for people that will provide interesting subjects for her blog.		
4. Ifemelu draws people into talking about themselves quietly and unobtrusively.		
5. SapphicDerrida is a fellow blogger.		
6. Ifemelu’s writing now seems to her unethical and inauthentic.		
7. Ifemelu finally admits that she is overweight.		

(_____ /7 pts)

PART B Analysis (30 points) (approximate time 75 minutes; 40% of total points)

Answer the following questions in **complete sentences, using your own words**, on a separate sheet of paper.

- There are **6 points per question** (2 points for form and 4 points for content).
- **Length:** 40-50 words per question. *Quotes from the text do NOT count for the word number.*
- **Count** your words and **indicate the number** at the end of each answer.

1. What would the movement between the cities of Princeton and Trenton indicate about Ifemelu’s characterization? (_____ /6 pts)
2. What do you think Ifemelu’s attitude towards the ice-cream eating man is? Give at least two elements to support your view. (_____ /6 pts)
3. The narrator uses a series of flashbacks to hint at a shift in Ifemelu’s perspective on things. Identify at least two flashbacks in this passage and show how these flashbacks are indicated grammatically. Finally, how do these flashbacks enlighten us in terms of the character of Ifemelu. (_____ /6 pts)
4. First identify the similarities Ifemelu notices between the Princeton-Trenton train and the New York subway. Then, in a second step, explain what they indicate. (_____ /6 pts)
5. What do Ifemelu’s blog title and her observations about hair, skin color, and weight imply? Identify and explain at least two elements. (_____ /6 pts)

PART C Writing (30 points) (approximate time 75 minutes; 40% of total points)

Write a coherent and engaging essay on **one** of the following topics.

- **Length:** between **250-350** words (points are given for structure, language, content)
 - **Count** your words and **indicate the number** at the end of your essay.
1. Many countries opt for assimilationist policies to manage immigration. Discuss in a for and against essay.
 2. Are only men to blame for the objectification of women's bodies? Discuss in an argumentative essay.
 3. The identity of bloggers should remain private. Discuss in a for and against essay.
 4. Taboos arise where ambivalence of feelings is present and their main goal is to protect our psyche from extremely negative experiences, like shame and guilt. Discuss in an argumentative essay.