

Option Internationale du Baccalauréat

Bac blanc , février 2010

History - Geography

American Section

Time : 4 hours

Candidates must answer one of the two history questions and one of the two geography questions

# HISTORY

Subject 1: an essay

By using at least two examples analyse the European de-colonization process after World War Two.

Subject 2 : a document based question on the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

- Document A: a statement by the US State Department, 1961  
Document B: messages exchanged between Kennedy and Khrushchev, 1961  
Document C: a report in Pravda, the Soviet newspaper, 1961  
Document D: a speech by Kennedy, 1962  
Document E: an extract from a book on the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1980

Part 1

Analyse the documents by responding to the following questions:

1. According to Document A, what threat did Cuba present to the USA?
2. What do Documents B and C reveal about the relationship between Kennedy and Khrushchev in 1961?
3. By using Documents D and E, assess Kennedy's management of the crisis.
4. Assess the value of *either* Document A *or* Document C for historians studying the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Part 2

By using the documents and your own knowledge, write an essay on the following subject:  
**To what extent was the Cuban Missile Crisis caused by a build up of tension between the USA and the USSR since the death of Stalin in 1953?**

## A Document based question on the Cuban Missile Crisis

### *Instructions:*

*Read the 5 documents carefully and answer the questions which follow;*

These documents relate to Cuba and the Cold War in the early 1960s.

### DOCUMENT A

*An extract from a pamphlet issued by the US State Department (Department of Foreign Affairs), 3 April 1961. (It was understood that it would be translated into Spanish and Portuguese and circulated widely throughout Latin America).*

It is the considered judgement of the US Government that the Castro regime in Cuba offers a clear and present danger to the authentic and autonomous revolution of the Americas - to the whole concept of spreading political liberty, economic development, and social progress through all the republics of the hemisphere. ...What began as a movement to enlarge Cuban democracy and freedom has been perverted ... into a mechanism for the destruction of free institutions in Cuba, for the seizure by international communism of a base and bridgehead in the Americas, and for the disruption of the inter-American system.

### DOCUMENT B

*Extracts from three of the messages exchanged between Chairman Khrushchev and President Kennedy at the time of the Bay of Pigs (Battle of Girón), April 1961 (Keesing's Contemporary Archives, pages 18152-3).*

Khrushchev (18 April): ...There should be no misunderstanding of our position: we shall render [give] the Cuban people and their Government all necessary assistance in beating back the armed attack on Cuba. We are sincerely interested in a relaxation of international tension, but if others aggravate it, we shall reply in full measure...

Kennedy (18 April): ...I have previously stated, and I repeat, that the United States intends no military intervention in Cuba. ...I believe, Mr Chairman, that you should recognise that free peoples in all parts of the world do not accept the claim of historical inevitability for Communist revolution.

Khrushchev (22 April): ...We do not have any bases in Cuba, and do not intend to establish any. ...We are sincerely desirous of reaching agreement both with you and with other countries of the world on the question of disarmament and all other questions the solution of which would promote peaceful co-existence.

### DOCUMENT C

*A report in Pravda about the meeting in Vienna of the US President, John F Kennedy and the Russian leader, Nikita Khrushchev, June 1961.*

The two men taking part in them are of a different stamp—their mentality, beliefs, education and traditions are opposed. On one side is the son of a worker, himself a worker, a battle hardened revolutionary, a staunch communist, a tireless fighter for peace and for friendship between peoples, the leader of a mighty socialist power. On the other is the son of a millionaire, himself a millionaire, a pious Roman Catholic, a man who represents the interest of his own class, the defender of the policy of the greatest country in the capitalist world.

Document D *An extract from President Kennedy's speech, 22 October, 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis (published in the World Since 1900 by Tony Howarth)*

'This urgent transformation of Cuba into an important strategic base - by the presence of these large, long-range and clearly offensive weapons of mass destruction - constitutes an explicit threat to the peace and security of all the Americas, in flagrant and deliberate defiance of the Rio Pact of 1947, the traditions of this nation and hemisphere, .... the Charter of the United Nations, and my own public warning to the Soviets on September 4 and 13....

The 1930's taught us a clear lesson : aggressive conduct, if allowed to grow unchecked and unchallenged, ultimately leads to war.... We will not prematurely or unnecessarily risk the costs of world-wide nuclear war in which even the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouths - but neither will we shrink from that risk at any time it must be faced....

Acting, therefore in the defence of our own security and of the entire Western Hemisphere, and under the authority entrusted to me by the Constitution as endorsed by the resolution of the Congress, I have directed that the following initial steps be taken immediately....'

Document E *A excerpt from The Brink: The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962, by David Detzer, published in 1980.*

Daniel Moynihan, senator from New York, had however called this moment a 'defeat'. The Kremlin, according to Moynihan, should have expected "a lot of trouble with the United States—and real trouble" for putting their missiles in Cuba. Although the Russians did take their missiles away, Moynihan complained that Kennedy allowed them to retain their influence with Castro's Government.

John Kennedy took a statesmanlike stand. Rather than increase the pressure he ordered all U2 flights cancelled and he told the Navy not to stop any ship at the quarantine line... One is struck... by his restraint, especially at the end when he refused to humiliate Khrushchev.

# GEOGRAPHY

The candidate must choose ONE of the two following questions:

## I. Essay

Write an essay on the Japanese megalopolis.

## II. DOCUMENT BASED QUESTION

On globalization and a global culture

List of documents :

Document 1a : The Avignon Festival

Document 1b : Cultural diversity becomes universal

Document 2 : The ten main publishers of the world

Document 3 : Global culture in Brazil

Document 4 : The production of films by country

Document 5 : Camel race in Dubai

### Part One

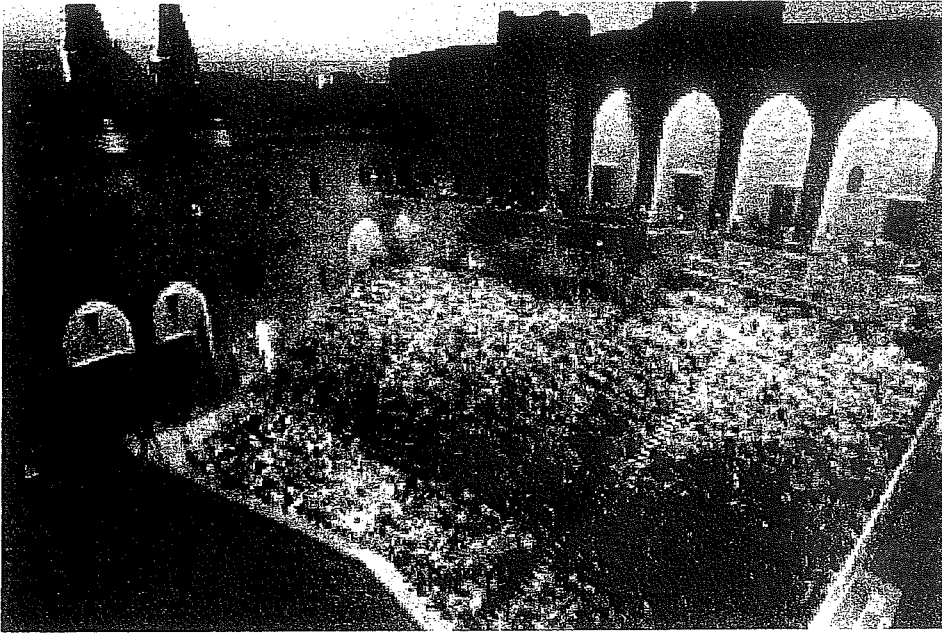
Analyse the documents by answering the following questions :

1. In what ways do documents 2, 3 and 5 show the existence of a global culture ?
2. According to document 1 what global commercial principles are being challenged by cultural diversity ?
3. How have countries and societies sought to resist a global standardisation of culture? (documents 1, 3 et 5).
4. To what extent can it be said that there is a cultural domination by the countries of 'the Triade'?(documents 2, 3 et 4).
5. To what extent are the countries of the South resisting a global culture ? (documents 3 et 5).

### PART TWO

By using the documents and your own knowledge answer the following

## Document 1



### *Document 1a* The Avignon Festival

A number of cultural festivals take place in France each year. They are financially supported by the state and local organizations and show a cultural vitality which stays protected from the financial interests of international business culture.

### *Document 1b* Cultural diversity becomes universal

UNESCO has made an agreement which breaks free of the regulations of international commerce. However, the United States and Israel have voted against this. The representatives of UNESCO have overwhelmingly agreed upon a convention on cultural diversity after a lively debate which left the United States isolated. The president of the meeting announced that of the 154 voting countries, 148 voted in favour of the proposals, 2 were opposed (the USA and Israel) and 4 abstained (Australia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Liberia). According to UNESCO (the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization) the agreement proposed by the European Union and Canada aimed at preserving cultural diversity by promoting ethnic traditions and minority languages and protecting local cultures from the negative effects of globalisation.

This UNESCO convention has 35 articles. It states that “activities, properties and cultural services must not be seen as having an exclusively commercial value” and authorises countries “to take measures as they deem appropriate” for the protection of their culture. The text which will come into effect as soon as 30 countries have signed it, has been considered by some of its supporters as a protection against American cultural imperialism.

Source : [nouvelobs.com](http://nouvelobs.com) 21octobre 2005

## Document 2



### The ten top publishers in the world

Éditeur	Pays	Chiffre d'affaires en 2006 (en millions d'euros)
Reed Elsevier	Royaume-Uni/ Pays-Bas/États-Unis	5 851
Pearson	Royaume-Uni	3 618,15
Thomson	Canada	3 168,46
Bertelsmann	Allemagne	4 612
Wolters Kluwer	Pays Bas	3 693
Hachette Livre	France	1 975
McGraw-Hill Education	États-Unis	1 941,54
Readers Digest	États-Unis	1 836,38
Scholastic	États-Unis	1 756,77
De Agostini Editore	Italie	1 607

Source: *Les Éditions*, octobre 2007.

1. Centres de l'Unesco, 3-10-2005.

## Document 3

### Global culture in Brazil

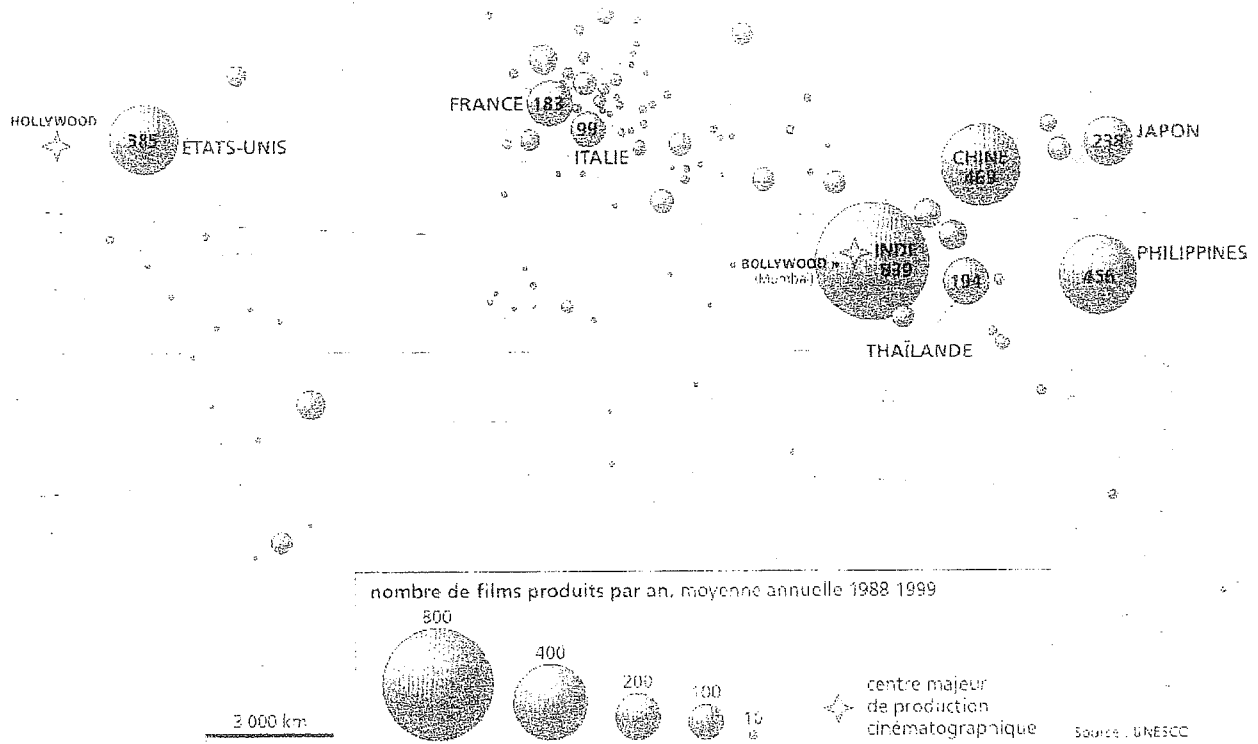
Although the quality of Brazilian art is well recognised, Brazilians tend to favour a variety of art which comes from abroad. A show coming from a foreign country is automatically considered to have quality regardless of its origins.

For international shows priority is particularly given to countries which have not just cultural but especially institutional connections with Brazil which consequently promotes exchange on a cultural level. France is an example of this with the 'Alliance française', Germany with the 'Goethe Institute', Italy with the Italian Institute of Culture, England with the British Institute, Japan with the Japanese Foundation and, since recently, China, which has just signed a series of agreements with Brazil, notably concerning economic activities.

These institutional links are important as they don't limit cultural events to individuals or groups of isolated artists. Among the main countries who actively participate in this Brazilian cultural exchange are France, Belgium, the USA and Canada. Italy, France, Great Britain, and Canada are particularly involved for dance, China for the circus and Italy, France and Spain for the opera. For theatre, no particular country is prominent. Indeed, only a limited part of the Brazilian population speaks English fluently or speaks a foreign language which limits the presentation of foreign theatre in Brazil.

Source: Patrimoine canadien. Etude du marché des arts du spectacle au Brésil  
www.patrimoinecanadien.ge.ce.2007

Document 4

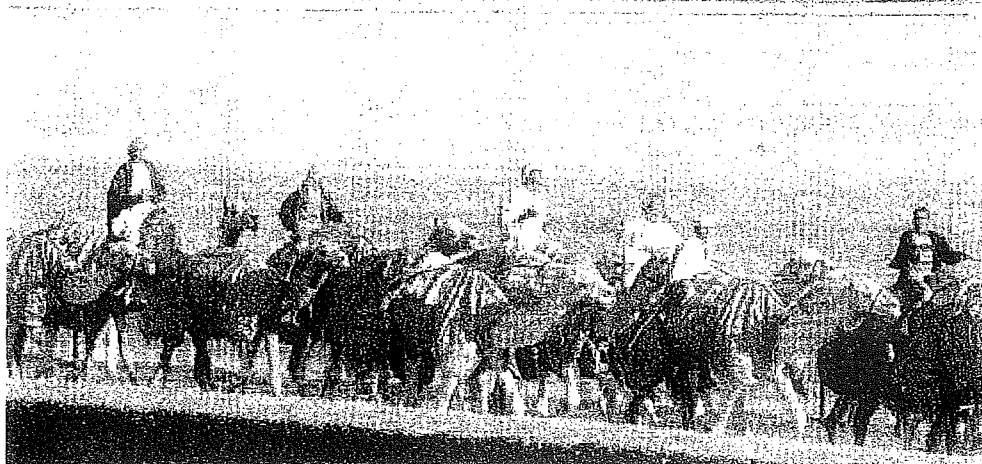
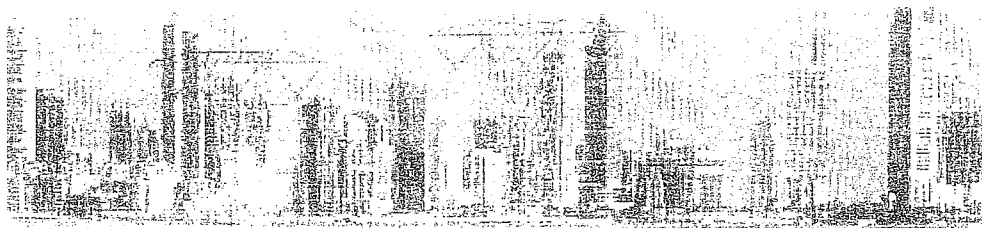


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Film production by country

The following 9 non film making countries also replied to the questionnaire: The Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Cambodia, Kenya, Namibia, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Chad

Document 5



A camel race in Dubai (The United Arab Emirates in The Persian Gulf)