

**SESSION 2015**

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**CAPES  
CONCOURS EXTERNE  
ET CAFEP**

**SECTION : LANGUES VIVANTES ÉTRANGÈRES – ANGLAIS**

**SECTION : LANGUES RÉGIONALES**

**COMPOSITION EN ANGLAIS**

Durée : 5 heures

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**Compare and contrast the following documents:****Document A**

## NO says the Leader of the Opposition

## ON THE DEVOLUTION DEBATE

An unhappy and divided British Parliament could not agree on whether Scotland needed the Assembly now proposed for her.

5 That is why, by means of the Referendum on Thursday, Parliament has passed the question on for the people of Scotland to have their say.

The Conservative Party as we well know, considers that the right answer is "No."

We hold that it places the unity of the United Kingdom in danger as never before.

10 I believe the question of whether or not there should be a Scottish Assembly should not be a matter for party politics.

It so clearly divides Scottish opinion irrespective of party, it must now be decided without partisan interference, and without outsiders stumping the country telling people how to vote.

15 A constitutional change on which there can be no going back; a change which may wreck the United Kingdom and will certainly alter Scotland's position within it—such a matter has to be above "party".

That is why I ask that the Scottish people make full use of this chance to express their views on their future.

They must vote freely, sinking their political differences, without ulterior motives and without care for party advantage either way.

20 Speaking, then, not just as a party leader but as a native of Britain I should wish to say this to Scotland.

Please let us stick together. We need each other now as much as we ever did.

The United Kingdom as a whole is, and always will be, greater than the sum of its parts. Divided we are diminished, both individually and collectively.

25 [...]

Now we have been assured by those who brought this Act before Parliament and manoeuvred it through the House of Commons that it offers a stable and durable settlement.

But it would not be stable and it could not endure.

30 Two questions at least—and there are many more—are still to be solved before effective devolution could be furthered.

One is the question of revenue-raising—a subject that would engage the Assembly in perpetual quarrels with the central government about money.

35 The other concerns Scottish Members of Parliament and the strange position they would find themselves in. Able to vote on many English domestic matters but not able to vote on those same matters which affected their constituents in Scotland.

Can anyone seriously believe that situation could be tolerated for long?

How in fairness could any future Government depend for its majority on such Scottish MPs?

Surely there would be demands for changes in their numbers and in their status.

40 This Act, if accepted, would be a time-bomb under the unity of the United Kingdom. Fundamental changes should not come about that way. We must make them by negotiation and agreement.

There was no general agreement on this Act to be found in Parliament.

Whether or not the Scotland Act would lead to separation—to an independent Scotland—is a hotly-argued question.

45 Some of its supporters openly intend to split up the United Kingdom.

Other people say the slide would not stop short of a federal system—a system, I might add, in

which 95 per cent of the British people have so far shown no interest at all.

If we adopt these proposals for an Assembly which cannot be stable or durable, we would be creating conflict later.

50 I believe the common interests of the British people would rapidly disintegrate to the dismay of most and to the disadvantage of all.

[...]

55 In the Referendum you are being asked to sign a blank cheque. If the account once approved, had the consequences that the enemies of our union intend and that every thinking politician fears, then no Westminster government of any complexion could afterwards be relied upon to put the United Kingdom together again.

A "No" vote on Thursday will ensure that we spend the 1980s together as well.

Margaret Thatcher, [Scottish] *Sunday Post*, 25 February 1979

## Document B

The decision is for Scotland. The challenge is for Scotland. But the results will affect us all.

5 I can tell you what I believe. But it is not for me, as an Englishman, to tell the people of Scotland what they should feel. I come here to listen to them. That is my way. To listen. That I will always do. But, as I do so, I have the right and duty, as your Prime Minister – as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom – to tell you what others feel, and what I feel, about our union.

For I, as an Englishman, am part of it.

10 As I listen to the debate in Scotland, I know well that many people here have their doubts. I know that many feel that Governments in London, of all Parties, have been too remote from them, that too little regard has been paid to the separate identity of Scotland. I know, too, that many now question the arrangements by which this country is governed.

[...]

15 Our constitution is a delicate balance. As Ian Lang has pointed out, it can, has, and no doubt will, evolve. But so great a change as a new tax-raising Parliament in Scotland could not be a simple bolt-on extra to our constitution. To say that is to mislead the people of Scotland.

Just as Scotland's decision cannot – and, I know from the debates in this country, will not – be lightly made. So its consequences cannot be simply measured. Confined north of the border. Or easily contained.

20 Labour's muddled mixture of proposals is being exposed as not only expensive, but unworkable. None of us can foresee where they might lead, or what would be the consequence of the inevitable tensions between a Parliament in Edinburgh and a Parliament at Westminster.

It would be all too easy in such circumstances for grievances to take hold and grow.

25 Grievances amongst the Scots, that certain decisions must still be taken by a Parliament at Westminster in which – however generously Scotland is represented – it will be outnumbered by MPs from other parts of the United Kingdom.

Or amongst those outside Scotland, that Scotland's representation at Westminster is too numerous or that the proportion of Britain's national tax revenues expended in Scotland is too high.

30 The danger of Labour's devolution proposals is that they might feed any such grievances, not dispel them. Labour has chosen to ride on a tiger; that tiger, unless soon caged, could consume the Union itself.

We Conservatives do not want to see such changes. [...]

[I]f there were a Scottish Parliament, with powers for health, or education, or industry, from which English and Welsh MPs were excluded, then there could be no place for Scottish MPs running those Departments in London. Nor, by the same logic, could there be any place for

35 Scotland's MPs voting on those matters. It would mean the creation of two-tier MPs – hobbled MPs from Scotland with half the power to vote, and members from every other nation with full authority on all the business that came before the House. That is the recipe that, over time, would inevitably lead on to separation. [...]

Extract from John Major's speech to Scottish Conservative candidates,  
made at the Moat House Hotel in Glasgow on 22 February 1992  
(<http://www.johnmajor.co.uk/page1267.html>)

## Document C

Scottish Independence Referendum: statement by the Prime Minister

*'The people of Scotland have spoken' said Prime Minister David Cameron following the outcome of the Scottish independence referendum*

5 The people of Scotland have spoken. It is a clear result. They have kept our country of four nations together. Like millions of other people, I am delighted.

As I said during the campaign, it would have broken my heart to see our United Kingdom come to an end.

10 And I know that sentiment was shared by people, not just across our country, but also around the world because of what we've achieved together in the past and what we can do together in the future.

So now it is time for our United Kingdom to come together, and to move forward.

A vital part of that will be a balanced settlement – fair to people in Scotland and importantly to everyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as well.

Let us first remember why we had this debate – and why it was right to do so.

15 The Scottish National Party was elected in Scotland in 2011 and promised a referendum on independence.

We could have blocked that, we could have put it off but just as with other big issues, it was right to take - not duck - the big decision.

20 I am a passionate believer in our United Kingdom – I wanted more than anything for our United Kingdom to stay together.

But I am also a democrat. And it was right that we respected the SNP's majority in Holyrood and gave the Scottish people their right to have their say.

Let us also remember why it was right to ask the definitive question, Yes or No.

25 Because now the debate has been settled for a generation or as Alex Salmond has said, perhaps for a lifetime.

So there can be no disputes, no re-runs – we have heard the settled will of the Scottish people.

Scotland voted for a stronger Scottish Parliament backed by the strength and security of the United Kingdom and I want to congratulate the No campaign for that – for showing people that our nations really are better together.

30 I also want to pay tribute to Yes Scotland for a well-fought campaign and to say to all those who did vote for independence: 'we hear you'.

We now have a chance – a great opportunity – to change the way the British people are governed, and change it for the better.

35 Political leaders on all sides of the debate now bear a heavy responsibility to come together and work constructively to advance the interests of people in Scotland, as well as those in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, for each and every citizen of our United Kingdom.

To those in Scotland sceptical of the constitutional promises made, let me say this, we have

delivered on devolution under this Government, and we will do so again in the next Parliament.

40 The three pro-union parties have made commitments, clear commitments, on further powers for the Scottish Parliament.

We will ensure that they are honoured in full.

45 And I can announce today that Lord Smith of Kelvin – who so successfully led Glasgow’s Commonwealth Games – has agreed to oversee the process to take forward the devolution commitments with powers over tax, spending and welfare all agreed by November and draft legislation published by January.

Just as the people of Scotland will have more power over their affairs, so it follows that the people of England, Wales and Northern Ireland must have a bigger say over theirs.

The rights of these voters need to be respected, preserved and enhanced as well.

50 It is absolutely right that a new and fair settlement for Scotland should be accompanied by a new and fair settlement that applies to all parts of our United Kingdom.

In Wales, there are proposals to give the Welsh Government and Assembly more powers.

And I want Wales to be at the heart of the debate on how to make our United Kingdom work for all our nations.

55 In Northern Ireland, we must work to ensure that the devolved institutions function effectively.

I have long believed that a crucial part missing from this national discussion is England.

We have heard the voice of Scotland – and now the millions of voices of England must also be heard.

60 The question of English votes for English laws – the so-called West Lothian question – requires a decisive answer.

So, just as Scotland will vote separately in the Scottish Parliament on their issues of tax, spending and welfare so too England, as well as Wales and Northern Ireland, should be able to vote on these issues and all this must take place in tandem with, and at the same pace as, the settlement for Scotland. [...]

David Cameron, speech delivered from 10 Downing Street, 19 September 2014  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-independence-referendum-statement-by-the-prime-minister>)