

**EXAMEN DE RATRAPAGE
(Session 2) 1^{er} et 2^{ème} semestre
Samedi 21 juin 2014**

Durée : 2 heures – aucun document autorisé

'Some graduates have never read a book', warns London professor

Anna Davis, Education Correspondent, London Evening Standard, May 27 2014

Students are graduating from university without ever reading a book from cover to cover, a London professor warned.

Instead of reading whole books, undergraduates are using the index to find relevant points, reading articles and looking information up on Wikipedia, according to Orlando Figes, professor of history at Birkbeck, University of London.

He warned that children are encouraged to read this way at school to pass exams, and carry on doing it as they get older.

- 5 He said: “At university, too, they are trained in the academic discipline of “using” books (riffing through the index, reading introductions and conclusions, skim reading, or approaching them via book reviews) to construct an argument or engage with a scholarly controversy.”

- 10 But he said students who do not read whole books miss out on true understanding and knowledge. Writing in the Times Educational Supplement he said: “Good books swallowed whole transform our lives. We lose ourselves in them, emerging from them changed, richer intellectually, with new questions and ideas about the world. To read such a book in its entirety is to comprehend how its argument is constructed, to appreciate it as a work of literature and to be immersed in reading. This must surely help students to lengthen their attention span, deal with texts that are difficult and assimilate knowledge.”

Professor Figes has launched a new course called Reading History, on which students will be expected to read five short history books, examine the influence they have had, and show in their exam that they have read them thoroughly.

- 15 He warned that if students rely on the internet they could easily get their facts wrong. He said he checked Wikipedia for information about the Russian Revolution - his area of expertise- and found “an alarming number of mistakes, misapprehensions and misleading statements that would never have appeared in a textbook written by an expert in the field.”

- 20 He said that experts need to help to improve the quality of information available online, which is why he has launched a free website to help students studying the Russian Revolution and Soviet history. He said: “What I hope, of course, is that it will steer students towards in-depth reading of books, not replace them.”

PART A - GENERAL AND DETAILED COMPREHENSION

A1 -Choose the correct answer or answers based on the information found in the text. (5 points)

A1.1 This article is about :
 college students in general
 literature graduates
 doctorate students
 students from Birkbeck college

A1.2 The phenomenon is explained by
 bad habits acquired when preparing for tests in secondary school
 excessively priced books
 the excessive number of published books
 easily accessible online resources

A1.3 According to Pr. Figes, there is
 no point in reading a book cover to cover
 nothing to be done to address the issue
 no way to guarantee the validity of information found online
 no problem with skim reading

A1.4 To read a book from cover to cover means to
 risk losing oneself in it
 increase one's chances to assimilate information
 make it easier to plagiarize it
 create opportunities to have one's life changed

A1.5 The new course taught by Figes
 requires the reading of five full books
 offers the opportunity to both read and write stories
 is about the Russian revolution
 is both free and online

A2 - Résumez en anglais, en une cinquantaine de mots, le constat fait par le professeur Figes, les causes identifiées et les moyens d'y remédier. Vous pouvez utiliser des mots du texte. (8 points)

A3 – Clarify the meaning of the text's final quote by Figes : what do « it » and « them » respectively refer to ? (2 points)

PART B – VOCABULARY, SYNTAX, GRAMMAR

B1 - Vocabulary. Find the best equivalent : (5 points)

Example : to caution, to attract attention to	To warn, line 2, line 5
1. continue	

2. lose / do not access	
3. to ingest / to take in	
4. concentration, capacity to focus	
5. to lead	

B2 - Contraire ou synonyme ? Dites si les paires suivantes, extraites du texte, rassemblent des mots ou expressions de sens similaires (Syn) ou opposés (Opp). (5 points)

B2.1 « reading whole books » + « reading in its entirety » : Opp / Syn

B2.2 « reading from cover to cover » + « skim reading »: Opp / Syn

B2.3 « riffling through » + « in-depth reading » : Opp / Syn

B2.4 « looking up » + « checking » : Opp / Syn

B2.5 « scholarly » + « academic » : Opp / Syn

B3. Posez une question portant sur la partie soulignée de la phrase. Ecrivez la question en entier jusqu'au point d'interrogation. (2 points)

B3.1 Some graduates have never read a book.

B3.2 Some graduates have never read a book.

B4 – Transformez la phrase selon les instructions. Dans tous les cas, restez au plus près de la phrase de départ. (3 points)

B4.1 Children are encouraged to read this way at school to pass exams.

Mettez à la forme interrogative. Ne rajoutez rien à la phrase de départ hormis un point d'interrogation.

B4.2 This must surely help students to lengthen their attention span.

Dites le contraire de deux façons différentes.

B4.3 Children are encouraged to read this way.

Mettez à la voix active.

PART C – Writing, explaining. (10 points)

Choisissez un sujet et écrivez au moins 150 mots.

What's wrong with 'using' (l. 5) books ?

Or

Books vs. the internet ? Books on the internet ? Books and the internet ? Books or the internet ? What do you choose ?