BLAIR AND THE 2005 GENERAL ELECTION[1]

I- Background on Blair's previous terms

a- The electoral system
b- Achievements
c- Bones of contention

II- The 2005 polls

a- The 2005 results
b- The New Cabinet

III- A third term: the Queen's Speech

a- What is the Queen's Speech
b- Third term: the agenda

Notes typographiques

. *Le vocabulaire thématique en gras ; je vous recommande de vous constituer des FICHES THEMATIQUES de vocabulaire. L'enrichissement de votre vocabulaire passe nécessairement par l'apprentissage par cœur de telles listes. Toutefois, il peut être plus facile de retenir le vocabulaire en contexte, d'où son inclusion ici au sein de phrases rédigées.*

. *Les informations les plus importantes sont soulignées.*

. *Le vocabulaire en italique est utile pour les essais (mots de liaison, connecteurs logiques etc)*

Les notes de bas de page :

. *les notes en rouge concernent la civilisation et l'histoire*

. *les notes en vert concernent le vocabulaire, les questions de langue, la grammaire*

[1] Please note THE SINGULAR in English :

En français	les élections présidentielles / législatives
Aux Etats-Unis	the presidential election / the mid-terms
En Grande-Bretagne	the general election (the leader of the winning party becomes Prime Minister)

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BLAIR AND THE 2005 GENERAL ELECTION

INTRODUCTION

Although you must have been following **the 2005 general election** in the United Kingdom, you may not possess the necessary background and strategic analyses that lie[2] behind. The purpose of this new "dossier" is to *provide you with* an insight on Britain's major *burning issues* through the campaign and election results[3].

What used to be Blair's position as leader? What was it this year following the intervention in Iraq? What does Blair's reelection mean? Is it a victory or a failure? What are the perspectives for his *upcoming* (third and last) term?[4]

As for the American presidential election, I think you should be very careful with the British election topic. You may think you know the issue well because you have heard much about it in the press. But you may not fully *grasp* the British *stakes*[5] of it.
Read this presentation and practice on this topic. Make sure you are able to explain the way the election works and the way the Prime Minister was **returned** (and NOT reelected), as well as the related issues (Blair's position in the Labour Party, his relationship with Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, the position of the **Tory** party, that of the **Liberal-Democrats**).

Be careful. Most of you think you are able to use the American presidential election and the British general election in your essays as a *compelling* example or in an oral presentation as an example easy *to account for*. However, I have noticed with students in "colle" that it is on such "simple" topics that seem easy to think of and master that the formulation is the poorest: because you have never bothered to "test" your example in English.

This is why I strongly recommend that you should "practice". Once you have read, understood and learned[6] the information[7] in this "dossier", make sure you are able to talk

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[2] Be careful with these confusing two verbs :

(1) to LIE / LAY / LAIN => être posé, être allonge [ETAT, POSITION]
(2) to LAY / LAID / LAID => poser quelque chose [ACTION, verbe transitif]

(1) I was lying on the beach when it rained / I lay on the beach all afternoon / I have never lain on the beach for too long.
(2) I will lay your money on the table / He laid his gun on the table and badge and resigned.

[3] Please make sure you do talk about the UK or **BRITAIN** and NOT ENGLAND. *Likewise*, Blair is the **BRITISH** Prime Minister, not the English one.

[4] By the way, I recommend the use of DIRECT QUESTIONS in your oral presentation to introduce the topical issues.

[5] the stakes = les enjeux

[6] to learn, learned, learned OR learnt, learnt

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