

**Assas**

**Session:** Septembre 2019

**Année d'étude :** Deuxième année de licence droit

**Discipline :** *Anglais 2ème semestre*  
(Unité d'Enseignements Complémentaires 2)

**Titulaires du cours :** **Mme Géraldine GADBIN-GEORGE**

**M. Hamed JENDOUBI**

**Durée : 1h30**

**Documents autorisés : AUCUN**

**I. Complete the following sentences, adding between 10 and 25 words. Use only one sentence (20 points).**

1. Pursuant to the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 ...
2. *Stare decisis* can be defined as ....
3. While the concept of Soft Brexit ...
4. Since the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 ....
5. If the Human Rights Act 1998 had not been passed ...

**II. Choose ONE of the following topics and write an essay in approximately 250 words (+/- 10%) (50 points).**

1. Does the monarch play an actual role in British politics?
2. To what extent should Parliament be made accountable to the electorate?

**III. Read the following document and answer each of the questions below (approximately 10 lines/100 words for EACH question). Use your own words. DO NOT QUOTE DIRECTLY FROM THE TEXT (30 points in total; 10 points per question).**

**University fees cut would hurt mobility and aid rich, PM told**

Michael Savage Policy editor, The Guardian, 5 Jan 2019

When (\*\*\*) see glossary below.

Theresa May is facing a growing clamour among senior Tories to resist cutting university tuition fees, with warnings that it would dent (\*\*\*) social mobility, benefit the wealthy and put some institutions out of business. Justine Greening, the former education secretary, and former university ministers Jo Johnson and David Willetts spoke out amid mounting expectations that a review of higher education could back a cut to the maximum fees of £9,250 a year for some courses. All warned against a headline cut in fees. May is also being warned privately she will never be able to secure support for a cut in fees in the Commons. It comes as some universities sound the alarm about their finances, with competition for students increasing [...].

A review of higher education funding, by the former broker Philip Augar, is due to report early this year and is believed to be considering a cut in maximum fees on some courses from £9,250 to £6,500. Such a move would see the Treasury asked to pay billions more to ensure universities were not left out of pocket. It has also been suggested that the review could back an increase in fees for some courses that lead to higher earnings. May is said to have been keen on a cut to improve her party's prospects among young voters, but there is concern on the Tory benches about such a move, which many see as a doomed attempt to compete with Jeremy Corbyn's pledge to abolish fees.

Greening said the last thing universities needed was a "cack-handed (\*\*\*) fees reform that means we go backward on social mobility and access". Johnson said a fees cut would see universities "once again competing for limited amounts of public money against politically more powerful areas". He added: "It is clearly right and progressive that people who go on to earn a graduate post and salary should make a contribution to the cost of their courses. Lowering fees would benefit the highest-earning graduates only, who are the ones most likely to repay in full. "It would also make it harder for universities to widen participation. Additional fee income allowed them to spend more on outreach programmes to schools, bursaries, fee waivers, and so on. Some of that money could be better spent, but it has played a part in what has been an extraordinary story of widening participation in higher education over the last decade. To go back to the old model will send that engine of social mobility straight into reverse."

Willetts, a Tory peer, said there was no evidence the Treasury would be prepared to "shell out billions more" on higher education and warned that a fees cut was not the right way to win over young voters. "The fear with Augar is the advisers around the prime minister will nab (\*\*\*) the fee cut, but universities are left uncompensated. That would be disastrous for universities and, above all, students." He added: "There seems to be a view in No 10 that too many people go to university. As soon as you start reducing the numbers, it is the people from poorer backgrounds who lose out. For all those reasons, this would be bad for social mobility, which I know Damian Hinds [the education secretary] is committed to."

Downing Street has also been warned that, with Tory concerns and a wafer-thin majority reliant on the Democratic Unionist party, a fee cut would not get through the Commons. Labour wants all fees abolished. Another senior Tory said the move to cut fees amounted to an attempt "to enact Ed Miliband's policy [of a fee reduction] on the cheap", adding: "It will shrink the universities sector. What MP is going to vote for a policy that does that at a time when we need to be championing 'Global Britain'?" [...]

## **GLOSSARY**

(\*\*\*) dent : reduction in amount or size

(\*\*\*) cack-handed : inept, clumsy

(\*\*\*) nab : take

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What government plan is being discussed in the article ? Is Theresa May confident it will pass the House of Commons ?
2. What are the concerns of Conservative MPs and Peers with this plan ?
3. Do you share those concerns ? Why or why not ?