



# **CONCOURS**

## **APRES CLASSES PREPARATOIRES**

Sujets de l'épreuve orale

Anglais LV1

2021

**ORAL CONCOURS 2021  
ANGLAIS - LVI****How to Mourn a Glacier**

Along the edge of Iceland's central-highland plateau stretch two barren volcanic ridges: the Prestahnúkur and the Ok volcano. These volcanoes form part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the longest mountain range in the world. The western slope rises slowly toward the summit of Ok, a volcano shrouded in mist. Although nearly every mountain, stream, and valley in Iceland has a name and history, Ok isn't particularly famous. Tourists typically take no note of Okjökull—meaning “Ok's glacier”—which spanned sixteen square kilometres at the end of the nineteenth century. By 1978, it had shrunk to three square kilometres. In 2014, Iceland's leading glaciologist, Oddur Sigurðsson, hiked to Ok's summit to discover only a small patch of slushy gray ice in the volcano's crater. Okjökull could no longer be classified as a glacier. It had become “dead ice.”

In August, I joined about a hundred scientists, activists, dignitaries, journalists, and children, as they gathered at the base of Ok to mourn the lost glacier. “The climate crisis is already here,” Iceland's Prime Minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, told the crowd. The microphone was passed to the writer Andri Snær Magnason, who had written the text for a memorial plaque that was to be installed at the site of the former glacier.

When Okjökull's “death” was announced, it was barely reported. Around that time, two American anthropologists, Cymene Howe and Dominic Boyer, were conducting work on the social impacts of the climate crisis in Iceland and the death of Okjökull caught their attention. Howe and Boyer began making a documentary about the glacier. They filmed interviews with residents, scientists, politicians and others. When asked how they felt about the death of Okjökull, some people said that they were sad. Others admitted that they were hearing its name for the first time. Sigurðsson, the glaciologist, insisted to Howe and Boyer that, even though Okjökull was the smallest named glacier in Iceland, its death was a major loss. “A good friend has left us.”

After the documentary premiered in 2018, Howe and Boyer had the idea of installing the memorial plaque and asked Magnason to write the text. It was a difficult prompt, Magnason said: only a handful of people might ever climb the mountain, and fewer would stumble across the plaque. The other challenge was how to evoke the linkage between glaciers and memory. The copper plaque would need to cohere for a reader two centuries from now, while also enshrining a specific moment of urgency. Magnason decided to address his imagined audience directly.

“A letter to the future,” the plaque reads in both Icelandic and English. “Ok is the first Icelandic glacier to lose its status as a glacier. In the next 200 years, all our glaciers are expected to follow the same path. This monument is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and what needs to be done.” As Howe, Boyer, and Magnason planned the ceremony, the first public photographs of the plaque went viral. Soon, they began hearing from people all over the world who wanted to be part of the funeral for the dead glacier.

If we say something has died, can we also say it once lived? Before the memorial ceremony, I met Sigurðsson, hoping to learn more about why he had chosen to frame the loss of the glacier as a death. Things that grow and move, we tend to consider alive, he said. A healthy glacier grows each winter more than it melts each summer; moves on the ground and is covered with a fur-like layer of snow. A glacier's rings, formed by dust each year, are like rings on a tree containing a sort of memory—a record of volcanic eruptions, world wars, and nuclear meltdowns. When a glacier melts, Sigurðsson explained, its memory disappears.

When Sigurðsson conducted a glacier inventory in the early two-thousands, he found more than three hundred glaciers in Iceland; by 2017, fifty-six had disappeared. “Most of them didn't even have names,” he told me. “But we've been working with locals to name every glacier.” Now, he intends to complete their death certificates. It is unusual for a glaciologist to fill out a death certificate, but something concrete, like paper or a plaque, helps to make clear that the loss is irreversible.

At the funeral, Sigurðsson read a list of statistics from Okjökull's death certificate. “The age of this glacier was about three hundred years,” he said. “Its death was caused by excessive summer heat. Nothing was done to save it.” Howe and Boyer asked the children to come to the front. “We need to understand our relationship to the world in ways we haven't had to in the past,” Howe said. “We need to be able to imagine a new future.”

The New Yorker

*This article has been edited for exam purposes.*

## ORAL CONCOURS 2021 ANGLAIS - LV1

### **Homeland Security will soon have biometric data on nearly 260 million people**

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) expects to have face, fingerprint, and iris scans of at least 259 million people in its biometrics database by 2022, according to a recent presentation from the agency's Office of Procurement Operations. The agency is transitioning from a system called IDENT to a cloud-based system (hosted by Amazon Web Services) known as Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology, or HART. The biometrics collection maintained by DHS is the world's second-largest, behind only India's countrywide biometric ID network in size. The traveler data kept by DHS is shared with other US agencies, state and local law enforcement, as well as foreign governments.

Biometrics "make it possible to confirm the identity of travelers at any point in their travel," Kevin McAleenan, US president Donald Trump's recently-departed acting DHS secretary, told congress last year. US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, a division of DHS, could be tracking travelers "from the moment they begin their internet travel research." As the group has noted, DHS says "the only way for an individual to ensure he or she is not subject to collection of biometric information when traveling internationally is to refrain from traveling." Last month's DHS presentation describes the old database as an "operational biometric system for rapid identification and verification of subjects using fingerprints, iris, and face modalities." The new database, it says, "builds upon the foundational functionality" to include voice data, DNA profiles, "scars, marks, and tattoos," and the as-yet undefined "other biometric modalities as required." Some researchers caution some of the data will be "highly subjective," such as information gleaned during "officer encounters" and analysis of people's "relationship patterns."

Specialists worry that such tracking "will chill and deter people from exercising their First Amendment protected rights to speak, assemble, and associate," since such specific data points could be used to identify "political affiliations, religious activities, and familial and friendly relationships." But DHS and CBP already track relationships between travelers, and a recently unsealed criminal case filed in federal court demonstrates how effective the method can be. After a suspected drug trafficker fled from a security checkpoint inside San Francisco International Airport earlier this year, investigators analyzed his network of relationships. They identified a woman who claimed to be his girlfriend when the two flew to the US from New Zealand last January. Their research revealed that the woman "had exhibited suspicious travel patterns," and happened to be in the States at that time. She was set to fly to Sydney, Australia after only a three-day stay, and on another recent trip had spent just two days in the US before returning home. Border Patrol officers intercepted the woman as she was boarding her flight. A search turned up about 0.33 pounds of pure methamphetamine hidden inside her clothing, neck pillow, and vagina.

Researchers said in 2018 that facial-recognition software, like what the DHS is using, is "frequently...inaccurate and unreliable." DHS's own tests found the systems "falsely rejected as many as 1 in 25 travelers," which calls out potential foreign partners in countries such as the UK, where false-positives can reportedly reach as high as 98%. Women and people of color are misidentified at rates significantly higher than whites and men, and darker skin tones increase one's chances of being improperly flagged. "When combined with data from other government agencies, these troubling collection practices will allow DHS to build a database large enough to identify and track all people in public places, without their knowledge—not just in places the agency oversees, like airports, but anywhere there are cameras."

Hackers, who can seemingly now touch nearly every aspect of modern life, are also of concern. In June, CBP announced that a federal subcontractor had suffered a "malicious cyberattack," resulting in the theft of tens of thousands of photos used in CBP's facial-recognition database. Frank Slijper, project leader of the Arms Trade group at Pax, a Netherlands-based peace nonprofit, says we are all partially to blame for the existence of a creeping surveillance state. "We have allowed it with social media platforms as well—we blindly embrace them until we realize how they start controlling our lives, and then get angry at Facebook," Slijper explained. "Hopefully the general public becomes more aware of the risks that come with the more immediate advantages of all these new digital technologies [like] free social media, quickly paying [bills], smoothly going through airport control."

Quartz ZA

*This article has been edited for exam purposes.*

## ORAL CONCOURS 2021 ANGLAIS - LVI

### **The Empty Promise of the Clear Plastic Backpack**

For high schoolers in Parkland, Florida, going back to class after the shootings at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School (MSD) in February 2018 meant being on display. The name of their town had become shorthand for a tragedy; their trauma had become fodder for a nation trying to make sense of yet another school shooting, which left 17 classmates dead. Also on display were the contents of their book bags: Over spring break, the school established a rule that students wear clear plastic backpacks instead of conventional ones. The MSD teens rebelled against the gear. They told journalists that they hated the uniformity and the fact that their private belongings—from tampons to medication—were now public. Students turned their bags into stages for protest.

Along with active-shooter drills, metal detectors, and visitor's badges, transparent accessories are now familiar elements in the American public education experience. The number of schools that require clear backpacks isn't known; school security experts say it's small. But the market appears to be expanding: Such bags are also increasingly mandatory music festival gear, paired with flower crowns and glitter. There's an emerging industry of security-optimized packs and bags; several brands have capitalized on the trend. But what, if anything, do clear backpacks accomplish to improve public safety?

The Columbine massacre in April 1999 dramatically raised the stakes on school security. The shooters wore trench coats, so some schools banned them; the shooters carried some of the firearms used in the attack in backpacks, so schools got rid of them, or enforced strict plastic backpack policies. Decades later, school shootings remain a core American anxiety: The number of violent incidents in schools hit a new high in 2018. That same year, Parkland's Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School joined several other schools across the country in instituting clear or mesh backpack policies.

Gun safety experts tend to be skeptical of backpack rules. "I wouldn't go so far as to say they're useless," says Michael Dorn, the executive director of the school safety nonprofit Safe Havens International. "But generally speaking, it's very easy to conceal weapons in them. In our experience, most of the students figure out the limitations of them," says Dorn, whose organization has consulted over 8,000 schools on safety policies. "They're not that hard to defeat in relation to the inconvenience they cause." He says some schools he advised told him they adopted clear backpack policies only to later drop or loosen them "because they found it was not very effective." He can't recall ever advising a client to institute the requirements. "It could help a little bit to speed up screening, but you'd have to do the same things you'd have to do with or without clear bags," says Dorn. "You have to look inside to see if anything contains a firearm."

But the hope among schools that pursue such measures is that, like instituting mandatory visitor screening and metal detectors, forcing people to carry clear bags is a gentle-but-persistent means of discouraging malicious activity. Backpacks might also have a kind of placebo effect that helps ease student anxieties about their classmates: By insisting no one has anything to hide, they could show students just how little there is to fear. Basically, in a nation with 393 million civilian-owned firearms, a clear-backpack rule is better than doing nothing, schools say.

Regardless of their effectiveness, Dorn has a more fundamental objection to these security policies: They address a problem that has long been overstated. School shootings may be framed as an epidemic, but only 1.2 percent of homicides are committed at school. Fears of mass shootings and the increasingly aggressive counter-measures they inspire affect far more people than violence itself, he says. Programs like active-shooter drills have made recruiting teachers more difficult and could be inflicting psychological trauma on students.

In this atmosphere, clear backpacks might even be making things worse, Dorn says. "There is a place for physical security, no question about it. However, the human elements—the behavioral training and threat assessment—those are by far the most reliable," he says. "What we often see is the more [schools] go for simple solutions—like metal detectors or putting a cop in every school, arming teachers, clear book bags—the less they're doing the things that are the most important." At Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, students' frustration has been heeded. When students returned to the classroom in September last year, the clear backpack policy was gone. In its place: metal detectors.

City Lab

*This article has been edited for exam purposes.*

**ORAL CONCOURS 2021  
ANGLAIS - LVI****Should We Pay to Enter Bookstores?**

Recently browsing at the Strand<sup>1</sup> and spotting a new book I wanted, I experienced a common, modern-day itch: Do I purchase the book, thus supporting bookstores, publishers, authors, and everything I believe in? Or pull out my phone and check how much money I would save were I to buy the book online? The Strand was selling the book at a modest price but I suspected it would be cheaper on Amazon. Sure enough, the same book was there, ten dollars less than the Strand's price. If I ordered it online, it would be delivered to my door the next day, for free.

The moral high ground is to buy the book from the Strand. The store afforded me the pleasure of browsing the shelves and reading for as long as I wished. They deserve my money. But, for the sake of argument, let's say that I chose three additional books and each one was also ten dollars less online; I could save forty bucks! I want to give my money to the Strand. I'm willing to pay more in exchange for the intangibles that I'm offered by a store's physical existence. But I fear that this business model, whereby physical retailers are basically relying on a code of honor from their customers, is just not sustainable.

So why not monetize the intangibles? Bookstores could charge an admission fee, like a dollar. Visitors could browse all day with no pressure to make a purchase. If they did, perhaps the item would be cheaper because the admission fees would have allowed the store to lower prices. The idea is not entirely new. A few daring retailers overseas have begun experimenting with this model. In Porto, Portugal, visitors to the world-famous Livraria Lello bookstore pay five euros for an entry voucher, the cost of which is then subtracted from a purchase. And Bunkitsu, a bookstore in Tokyo, charges customers the equivalent of fourteen dollars to browse its inventory, exhibition space and reading area, where patrons are permitted to help themselves to unlimited quantities of coffee and tea.

The booksellers I spoke to in New York were generally uninterested in this sort of radical move. Miles Bellamy, the owner of Spoonbill & Sugartown bookshop, dismissed the idea. "I would never charge people to walk into the store. No. It's just not classy." Sarah McNally, the owner of the McNally Jackson bookstore, feels the same way. "Bookstores are havens," she said. "They're one of the few public spaces left. Charging admission?" she asked, incredulously. "What about children? What about teenagers? Absolutely not," she said. "I'd rather close."

But Nancy Bass Wyden, owner of the Strand, is not opposed to exploring new models. Her store's continued success may have as much to do with its iconic status and longevity as with her initiatives to drive sales through author readings. The Strand was hosting four different events on the day that I spoke to her, all of which required attendees to either purchase the book being promoted or a fifteen-dollar Strand gift card. "I've never thought about charging to come into the store," she told me, "but it's a great future conversation to have." But she also agreed that it was important not to make entry prohibitive to anyone. "I go to small bookstores all the time," she told me, "and I always buy a book. The kindness, openness, and sense of community that these places offer us is essential. We need that."

I think about this when I shop. It's difficult for me to pass a bookstore without having a browse. Never mind that I probably own more unread books than I could ever possibly read in a lifetime. Somehow, deep down, I think I believe that I will live long enough to read them eventually. Books make me feel immortal, and I want more of them, always. I want bookstores to always be there. I want to be able to get lost in them, to lose track of time, to encounter new titles, and to leave brimming with anticipation.

In this confounding era of online retail, I'm certainly willing to pay a premium for such pleasures, but an extra thirty percent seems to be too much. There must be a way to level the playing field a bit, ideally sooner rather than later. So, pay to enter bookshops? I would, certainly, and I have a hunch that others would, too, especially if all bookstores instituted the same policy. It may not serve to topple Amazon, but it may at least hold the company at bay until we can figure out a better solution.

The New Yorker

*This article has been edited for exam purposes.*

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<sup>1</sup> The Strand: well-known independent bookshop in New York that opened in 1927

**ORAL CONCOURS 2021  
ANGLAIS - LV1****The US has fewer than 400 statues of women—but that's changing**

In Manhattan's iconic Central Park, visitors walking along the winding green paths encounter a Polish king, a Venezuelan military leader, or some eagles with their prey. Romantics sigh in front of fictional Romeo and Juliet; kids take pictures with a sled dog called Balto, or with Mother Goose. And although there are 23 statues of historical figures in the park, not one of them is a real woman. Monumental Women is changing that. On Monday, a commission of the New York City council approved the plans to erect a bronze statue of New Yorkers Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth. On the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the non-profit organization The Statue Fund, which organized the campaign, will unveil the first statue of real women in Central Park.

"42 million people visit Central Park every year," says Namita Luthra, who is on the board of directors of the organization. "They deserve to see real women—women who built this country, who helped realize the American promise, who helped expand our definition of we the people." But the lack of visibility for notable women isn't just isolated to New York City. Women have undeniably changed the course of history. In the US alone, they have led the civil rights movement and fought to abolish slavery; they have been great American novelists and held power to account as investigative journalists; they were among the first to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, and pushed for new legislation to gain the right to vote. But public art has largely let these accomplished women fall to the margins—women are rarely depicted at all. That's especially true when it comes to statues, a form of art that is designed to be public and visible.

"Even thinking about the word 'erect', 'to erect a statue.' Heroic statues are very phallic; it's a very masculine way to take up space," she says. Throughout history, most statues honor heroes or victims. But until recently, Dosch explains, women weren't deemed worthy of either those roles, or part of that public discourse. One thing women could be, though? Metaphors. Most artistic representations of females depict fictional ideals, allegories, or mythic creatures, such as Liberty, Justice, Beauty, half naked nymphs, angels of water, and a 19th century author's conceptualizations of trips to a wonderland. Many of these statues of feminine entities are overly sexualized and objectified.

Across the US, there are fewer than 400 public statues of women. San Francisco has three statues of historical women and 85 of men. In Washington, D.C. some of the statues depicting women represent the metaphorical ideals of our democracy. In New York City, only five of 150 statues are real women. The problem extends to other countries, too. In the UK, out of 828 recorded statues, 94 are nameless representations of females and 80 are named women, according to the BBC. But approximately 15 of those named women aren't real women, and a whole 38 of them are royal figures—mainly various versions of Queen Victoria. In Australia there are more statues of animals than of women; just under 4% of all of the country's statues represent historical female figures, according to columnist Tracey Spicer. This lack of representation has real effects. Because women—actual, real women—couldn't be venerated in the form of sculpture, people subconsciously understood that women weren't worthy of being emulated and idolized.

Monumental Women is a campaign launched by The Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund, Inc. (the Statue Fund), a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization with 12 board members. The organization started campaigning for suffragette statues in Central Park's Literary Walk over six years ago, but the bureaucracy and policy hurdles have made this a long journey. The campaign has raised more than \$1.5 million from historians, women's groups, politicians, foundations, and government members, for an award-winning female sculptor to complete the statue.

Other states and cities are pushing for more female statues. All these initiatives come with educational programs intended to teach the public about monumental women in history. "The monuments are important, I'm a believer in the monuments," says Gale Brewer, Manhattan's Borough President. "[But] I'm more of a believer in history and the ongoing discussion in our community. If we make these monuments, they have to be accompanied with extremely intensive information, on apps, online, in the schools. And I know they will." In fact, advocates say this movement is much bigger than monuments—this is about realizing that women's absence from history makes a difference. "We are going back to erecting statues for heroes, but we're redefining and rethinking the hero monument," says Dosch.

Quartz

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# **CONCOURS**

## **APRES CLASSES PREPARATOIRES**

Sujets de l'épreuve orale

Anglais LV2

2021

**ORAL CONCOURS 2021  
ANGLAIS - LV2****One Thing Millennials Aren't Killing? Public Transportation**

Advocates for public transportation often promote practical advantages: affordability, accessibility, environmental friendliness. Michelle Santa Maria, 24, likes it for a different reason. "I feel like it's cute," she says. It's "cute" when bus drivers greet her in the morning, or when she makes eye contact with a fellow passenger, she says. It's clear that public transit means more to her than just a way to get from Point A to Point B.

She's just one of the many young people who aren't as car crazy as members of their parents' or grandparents' generation. According to a University of Michigan study, the number of people under 30 with driver's licenses has been steadily declining. Santa Maria belongs to a public transit fan page on Facebook, called *New Urbanist Memes for Transit-Oriented Teens*, with more than 200 thousand members. They call themselves NUMTOTS — and they share funny posts but also discuss transportation policies. Millennials are often blamed for "killing" things. However, public transportation is one thing many millennials, and their younger counterparts in Gen Z, are trying to save.

But the pandemic has been crushing to public transit systems across the country. Drops in ridership have led to budget cuts and service rollbacks, which means a lot of trains and buses are coming less frequently, if at all. "To be honest, it's infuriating," says William Clark, 25. Clark is one of the moderators of the NUMTOTS Facebook group, and he grew up riding public transit. He worries about transit workers as well as the commuters who ride buses and subways because they have no alternative. "When you reduce the amount of service, you have to pack more people into fewer vehicles, so it leads to a higher possibility of contracting COVID. It's actually pretty scary," said Clark. He works from home now, so he isn't riding the train anymore. But he's trying to support the public transit system in other ways. He's a member of a transit riders' union in Philadelphia where he says he advocates for the needs of riders who are unable to attend public meetings.

Across the country, Alex Lee, 25, is advocating for transit in San Jose, Calif. He got himself elected to the state assembly and he wants to work on solutions to make funding for public transit less dependent on transit fares. "If you start cutting transit then you're really hurting the people that depend on it most, right? People who don't have access to cars, or people who rely on these literal life bloods to get to and from work and a lot of these are essential service workers," said Lee.

Some NUMTOTS see a light at the end of the tunnel as a result of the outcome of the U.S. presidential election. "Since Joe Biden has endorsed part of the Green New Deal, at least in terms of its climate goals, I'm hoping that we'll see new investments in transit in the future," said Clark. But not everyone is as optimistic about the new president. "I'm still filled with dread," said Tenzin Chopel, 27, a nurse. Chopel wants leaders in transportation to not just be millennials, but to think like millennials. And that means not thinking like politicians from previous generations who promised major upgrades to public transit systems and never delivered.

National Public Radio

*This article has been edited for exam purposes.*



**ORAL CONCOURS 2021  
ANGLAIS - LV2****All change: India's railways bring back tea in clay cups in bid to banish plastics**

A small and humble relic from India's past is about to stage a major comeback. At all 7,000 railway stations in the country, tea will be served in earthen cups known as kulhads. The kulhads, redolent of a bygone era, are unpainted and unglazed, but are perfectly biodegradable and environment-friendly, which is why the country's railways minister, Piyush Goyal, has said they will replace plastic cups as part of the government's goal of making India free of single-use plastic. "Kulhads will not only help reduce the use of toxic plastic and save the environment, they will give employment and income to hundreds of thousands of potters," said Goyal, making the announcement. In a time of endless consumerism and a throwaway culture, they also symbolise an earth-based and crafts-based way of living.

This is not the first time an attempt has been made to bring back kulhads. One of Goyal's predecessors, Lalu Prasad Yadav, tried 16 years ago, but the policy was never properly implemented and plastic cups continued to reign supreme. Now the plan is to make them universal, for tea served on trains and on platforms. In these Covid times, they have an extra advantage in that they are inherently hygienic, as they are fired in a kiln and rarely reused.

India has a rich tradition of pottery. Every village has a potter. Although demand for such products has been falling as more Indians turn to plastic and steel, an earthen water pot for storing water is still a feature of village life. A large pot of water is often kept outside the house as a goodwill gesture for passersby to drink from. During the Hindu festival of lights, Diwali, tiny clay pots are lit up. On special occasions, desserts are still served in similar little pots.

Pre-pandemic, 23 million people travelled on India's trains every day, so an astronomical number of kulhads will be needed. This, politician and handicrafts expert Jaya Jaitly said, could generate income for 2 million potters. The scheme will only work, she adds, if the government ensures that it is well-coordinated, giving potters access to clay which is increasingly in short supply. Organising the country's scattered potters will also be a challenge. "There will have to be centres near the major railway stations with electricity and other facilities where the potters can work. Local transport can be used to get the cups to each station and that too can provide more jobs," said Jaitly.

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has already started supplying 20,000 electric potting wheels and equipment to more than 100,000 potters. "These wheels will be able to produce 2m kulhads a day. The machines will increase production by at least four to five times. The average income of a potter will go up from 2,500 rupees (£25) a month to 10,000 rupees," said the commission's chairman, Vinai Kumar Saxena.

At New Friends Colony, a residential area in Delhi, potter Kanta Ram sits on a stool on a busy road next to her wares, waiting for customers. Diwali is normally a good time, as Indians light up their homes. She can easily sell hundreds in a day. However, the pandemic forced low-key celebrations this year and she is struggling. Her kulhads sell for five rupees each but there are not many takers. "People tend to prefer plastic these days. If I could get a bulk order, I would feel a lot more secure," she says.

The Guardian, 03 December 2020

*This article has been edited for exam purposes.*

## ORAL CONCOURS 2021 ANGLAIS - LV2

### **'We want real action': young activists aim to fill void on climate with Mock Cop26**

Like many young climate activists around the world, 14-year-old Lavinia Iovino was exasperated when Cop26, the annual UN climate summit due to take place in Glasgow in November, was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. That's why she was so excited by the prospect of Mock Cop26, a two-week virtual conference, organised by young people to fill the void. "We know there is a pandemic but if we, a group of people under the age of 30, realised we can do it perfectly online without any problems, so could they," said Iovino, who is one of 350 delegates from 141 countries attending the event. "We cannot just keep giving ourselves time that we don't have."

The alternative conference will feature speeches and panel discussions on topics such as climate education and climate justice, and will culminate in delegates voting on a final statement to world leaders, which they hope will raise ambitions for Cop26 when it does go ahead in 2021. The environmental law charity ClientEarth will help develop this statement into a legal treaty that national governments could adopt into law. "It'll be ambitious, but it will also be realistic," said 18-year-old Josh Tregale, one of the event's organisers. "We want to illustrate that young people know how to implement things and can be leaders."

The conference has been designed to be more inclusive than a typical Cop meeting and to have a greater focus on the countries most affected by the climate emergency. More time will be allocated to countries from the global south, and these countries will be allowed five delegates each, giving them a greater say in the voting. Delegates will be grouped into timezone bands, with a programme designed to fit around school. The event was pushed back to later in November to avoid clashing with Diwali<sup>2</sup>. Tregale said: "We effectively looked at all of the things that Cop does and thought: how could we make it a bit better?"

This year's postponed UN Cop was lambasted for its planned all-male team of hosts, adding to growing disillusionment with the process after last year's talks ended with limited progress on emissions targets. Sofía Hernández Salazar, 22, from Costa Rica, is a Mock Cop26 delegate and attended Cop25 last year. "There was a lot of ambition, but a lack of action at the end of the day," she said. "They just negotiated about the economy with a focus on the global north." She said she was impressed with the efforts of Mock Cop26 to involve indigenous people and ensure a diversity of voices, when the youth climate movement is so often dominated by white people. More than 800 young people applied to attend the conference, with the highest number of applicants from India, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan and the Philippines.

After Cop25 was relocated to Madrid at the last minute due to unrest in the host country Chile, and this year's UK-hosted event was cancelled, the organisers hope their event will pave the way for more digitally focused and eco-friendly events in the future. Regardless of the outcome, Tregale said, young people are crying out for an outlet to discuss the climate crisis. "The idea itself seems to really resonate with people – the fact we're taking control and saying: 'You've not given us a seat at the table so we're going to make our own table.'"

The Guardian

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<sup>2</sup> Diwali: Festival of lights celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists

**ORAL CONCOURS 2021  
ANGLAIS - LV2****The disabled community is the world's third-largest economic power**

Chances are you've often seen headlines for a brand advertising an inclusive initiative for people with disabilities. Most likely, it launches with great fanfare. And then, silence. While well-intended, one-off projects like these set a low bar for success and take energy away from the real innovation the community needs. They tend to make the problem of access worse for people with a disability, rather than better.

But there are ways to get it right. Two years ago, apparel company Tommy Hilfiger launched an adaptive clothing line called Tommy Adaptive that makes getting dressed easier for people with physical disabilities. The brand partnered with more than 2,000 people with disabilities to ensure that all customer touchpoints were inclusive. Designers paid attention not only to the challenges consumers with disabilities face in getting dressed, but also to the end-to-end shopping experience, from searching for products to unboxing them at home. And if you needed to call customer service, the brand's representatives were trained on the needs of people with disabilities. In other words, the company was not launching a campaign merely to make clear that it was inclusive. It is not a PR gimmick, but a revenue plan. The question now is why everyone else isn't following suit.

There's a solid business case for designing for and selling to people with disabilities. First of all, consumers with disabilities make up a massive market. If the room you're in is representative of the world, one in five of the people you share space with has a disability. According to one study, the total disposable income of the community tops \$8 trillion per year. For context, that makes the community third-largest in the world in terms of purchasing power, after the US and China.

In addition, inclusivity has a knock-on effect with ordinary consumers. In 2018, the Porter Novelli/Cone Purpose Premium study found that companies perceived as purpose-driven—including those with a commitment to inclusive design—have a distinct advantage in the marketplace. Americans prefer organizations that are responsible (86%) and caring (85%) and are much more likely to buy from a purpose-driven company (88%). In America today, we happily face a good jobs market, which puts pressure on companies to find the talent they need to succeed. Providing an inclusive workplace for your company is one great way to unlock a talent pool that has been historically underemployed—and innovative.

Many important inventions, particularly around communication, have come from people with disabilities, including email, touchscreens, voice assistants, and the typewriter. Hiring an inclusive workforce, for what it's worth, also makes companies more effective. On average, those committed to social good see a 13% increase in employee productivity, a 20% increase in revenue, and a 50% decrease in staff turnover.

As a result, brands and businesses need to realize that being inclusive and creating inclusive products are not merely good things to do. It's good for business as well. They enable you to reach a large customer segment, access a hugely underutilized talent pool, and find a much larger group of potential employees and consumers. Inclusivity is not just ethical and moral, it also drives success. It may be disheartening to some that the real reason a company became inclusive was to compete better in the marketplace. But all things being equal, money can be a powerful incentive to do the right thing.

Quartz

*This article has been edited for exam purposes.*

**ORAL CONCOURS 2021  
ANGLAIS - LV2****Police chiefs and advocates for the homeless agree: Housing, not handcuffs, is the right way to deal with poverty**

In an era of bad news, here's a rare piece of good: The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty recently helped strike down an antiquated Virginia law allowing police to arrest and imprison people deemed "habitual drunkards." The legislature and administration should now use the opportunity to implement modern solutions to homelessness. We know the best outcomes are reached not through criminalization and imprisonment but through supportive systems that prevent crime.

The old law allowed the state courts to declare a person a "habitual drunkard," making it a crime for him or her to merely possess alcohol. But because people experiencing homelessness live their entire lives in public view, while housed people can drink in private, the law was almost exclusively enforced on homeless people.

It is cruel and unusual to punish someone for their status of being a homeless alcoholic, but it is also backward public policy. The purpose of law enforcement is to prevent crime, but because Virginia has inadequate treatment and housing options for these individuals, enforcing these laws only makes matters worse. The stress of experiencing homelessness and being under constant threat of arrest promoted substance use and abuse — and criminalizing substance abuse created arrest records, fines, fees and the trauma of jail time. All of these things made it harder for people to get their lives back on track.

In addition, police were distracted from responding to actual crimes by having to enforce these laws. Because warehousing someone in jail or sending him or her to the emergency room is much more expensive than providing housing and treatment, the burden of enforcement falls heavily on taxpayers.

Numerous studies have shown that alternative programs are more effective — and cost-effective — at reducing both homelessness and substance abuse. Housing-first models, such as 1811 Eastlake in Seattle, focus on providing housing and support systems to homeless people with chronic substance-use disorders. Providing housing and services rather than putting them in jail actually eases their addiction, ensures they have the tools to break the cycle of homelessness and has saved Seattle millions in law enforcement and emergency room costs. If Virginia could replicate this sort of program at a scale appropriate to the needs of our communities, it could meet the goals of the habitual drunkard law in eliminating the negative impacts of public alcoholism from public spaces — at a lower cost and with higher rates of success.

Alternative programs also allow police to stop spending time arresting unsheltered people for conduct that would be legal if they were inside a home and instead focus their time on real public-safety concerns. Police can leave the treatment of people in crisis to social workers, psychologists and medical personnel rather than taking on tasks they are neither trained nor equipped to handle.

Whether viewed from a moral, legal or fiscal policy angle, housing, not handcuffs, is the right way to deal with chronic homelessness and alcoholism. We stand ready to work with the state legislature, law enforcement and other housing and public health advocates to help implement proven alternatives that promote public-safety outcomes for homeless individuals and the communities in which they live.

The Washington Post

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