

Week 2

Le passé dans le présent

To what extent is Nelson Mandela's life a legacy?

Document A

Read and observe the following text

Long Walk to Freedom

As I stood over his grave, on a rise above the small school below, I thought not of the present but of the past. When I walked to the voting station, my mind dwelt on the heroes who had fallen so that I might be where I was that day, the men and women who had made the ultimate sacrifice for a cause that was now finally succeeding. I thought of Oliver Tambo, Chris Hani, Chief Luthuli and Bram Fischer. I thought of our great African heroes, who had made great sacrifices so that millions of South Africans could be voting on that very day; I thought of Josiah Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Yusuf Dadoo, Moses Kotane. I did not go into that voting station alone on 27 April; I was casting my vote with all of them.

Before I entered the polling station, an irreverent member of the press called out, 'Mr Mandela, who are you voting for?' I laughed. 'You know', I said, 'I have been agonizing over that choice all morning'. I marked an X in the box next to the letters ANC¹ and then slipped my folded ballot paper into a simple wooden box. I had cast the first vote of my life.

The images of South Africans going to the polls that day are burned in my memory. Great lines of patient people snaking through the dirt road and streets and towns and cities ; old women who had waited half a century to cast their first vote saying that they felt like human beings for the first time in their lives ; white men and women saying that they were proud to live in a free country at last. The mood of the nation during those days of voting was buoyant. The violence and bombing ceased, and it was as though we

¹ ANC : African National Congress

were a nation reborn. Even the logistical difficulties of the voting, misplaced ballot, pirate voting station and rumors of fraud in certain places could not dim the overwhelming victory for democracy and justice.

[...]

From the moment the results were in and it was apparent that the ANC was to form the government, I saw my mission as one of preaching reconciliation, of binding the wounds of the country, of engendering trust and confidence. I knew that many people, particularly the minorities, whites, Coloured² and Indians, would be feeling anxious about the future, and I wanted them to feel secure. I reminded people again and again that the liberation struggle was not a battle against any one group or colour, but a fight against a system of repression. At every opportunity, I said all South Africans must now unite and join hands and say we are one country, one nation, one people, marching together into the future.

This excerpt is from the book *Long Walk to Freedom* written by Nelson Mandela, published in 1995 and edited by Abacus. Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist, who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. He started to write this book in 1974 while he was in prison and he finished working on it after he was released in 1990. This extract is from chapter 114, the penultimate³ chapter of the book.

Long Walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela, 1994

Find out more on: <https://www.nelsonmandela.org/>

² Coloured : formerly Cape Coloured, a person of mixed European (“white”) and African (“black”) or Asian ancestry, as officially defined by the South African government from 1950 to 1991.

³ Penultimate : Avant-dernier

Document B

Watch the trailer of the movie Long Walk to Freedom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAgIzjX3HOk>

Document C

Reading comprehension exercises

Exercise 1

General comprehension

1. What type of document is it?
2. What is the topic of the document?
3. How many characters speak in this extract?
4. Who is the main character?
5. What country was he/she from?
6. Which of the following adjectives best apply to the extract?
 - a) Sad b) Ironical c) Authentic d) Dramatic

Exercise 2

Detailed comprehension

1. What does the expression « to cast a vote » means?
 - a) Appeler au vote b) Voter c) Supprimer un vote d) Elire

2. Explain the following sentence: « I did not go into that voting station alone on 27 April; I was casting my vote with all of them ».
3. Say if the following statements are Right or Wrong and justify by quoting⁴ the text.
 - a) Nelson Mandela voted for the first time.
 - b) He voted for the African Independent Congress.
 - c) Nelson Mandela was elected.
 - d) Nelson Mandela wanted black people to be more powerful than other people.
 - f) Why did Nelson Mandela laugh when a member of the press ask him for who he was going to vote?

1. Oral comprehension exercises

1. Watch the first twenty seconds: among the following words, tick the ones used to refer to Mandela:

- pacifist enemy revolutionary defender liberator radical
 progressive liberal fighter outlaw submissive rebel.

2. Why did Black people demonstrate?

3. True or false? According to Mandela, Black people respected the law.

Justify by quoting

4. Listen and complete:

Mandela: "Something has to _____."

⁴ To quote : citer

“For fifty years, we’ve been talking _____ and non- _____...”

Mandela: “ _____...”

5. What is the journalist’s question to Mandela? What does Mandela answer?

6. Find a title for the passage from 01 min 42 s to 02 min 37 s.

7. What was Mandela accused of?

8. Listen and complete: “My _____, it’s not __ but the government that should plead _____.”

9. Complete Mandela’s famous quotation: “ _____ is an ideal for which I’m prepared to _____.”

10. 02 min 21 s: What important event does this image refer to? Give a date.

Grammar

The modals

Un auxiliaire modal est en premier lieu un « auxiliaire », c'est-à-dire un mot qui est « au service » d'un autre, le verbe. Il est dit « modal », parce qu'il permet au locuteur d'exprimer son point de vue, en indiquant par exemple le possible ou l'impossible, le certain, l'obligation ou la permission. On dénombre neuf auxiliaires modaux: can, could, must, may, might, will, would, shall et should.

- Ils sont toujours suivis d'une base verbale et ne peuvent pas être suivis d'un autre auxiliaire modal.
- Il suffit d'inverser le modal et le sujet pour obtenir une question. On intercale la négation not entre le modal et la base verbale pour former les négatives.

- Ils ne s'accordent pas avec le sujet (donc pas de s à la 3e personne du singulier du présent).
- Ils n'ont pas toujours d'équivalent au prétérit (dans ce cas, il faut employer un verbe équivalent).

Modaux	Valeur (s)	Exemples
Can Can't	Possibilité/ Capacité Impossibilité / Incapacité	You can speak English You can't speak Chinese
Could Could not	Possibilité/ capacité dans le passé Demande polie L'impossibilité/ incapacité dans le passé	You could improve your English Could you spell your name please, Sir? She could not come yesterday
Will Won't	Certitude/ volonté Refus	If you work, you will succeed. He won't stop talking.
May	Probabilité	You may become bilingual if you spend one year in England
Might	Possibilité/ faible probabilité	Learning Chinese might be easy.
Must	Forte probabilité Obligation	It is 10 o'clock, the train must be arrived by now. You must study, if you want to succeed.

Must not (mustn't)	Interdiction	You must not lie to me.
Should	Conseil	You should learn a foreign language if you want to travel abroad.
Shall	Demande formelle Droits et devoirs (textes de loi)	Your honor, shall I come in. You shall not kill.

Exercise 1

Pick out the modals in the extract of *Long Walk to Freedom* and classify them according to their value.

Exercise 2

Circle the value expressed by each modal.

- a. You should work harder if you want to graduate. *conseil – probabilité forte – permission*
- b. She must be very sad. She liked her very much. *obligation – probabilité forte – capacité*
- c. I can speak French. Let me help you. *capacité – probabilité faible – absence d'obligation*

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with one of the following modal: Must/may not/should/won't

- a. How many times have I told you that you borrow my bike! (Absence de permission)
- b. Your brother see a doctor. (conseil)
- c. We wait for him another minute! (refus)
- d. I be getting home. (obligation)

