

**EXAMEN COMMUN D'ENTREE  
EN PREMIERE ANNEE**

**EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS**

**vendredi 29 juin 2012**

**13h30 à 18h00  
(durée conseillée : 1h30)**

**Coeff.2**

**Ce sujet est composé de 3 pages**

Il est demandé aux candidats de répondre directement sur leur copie en indiquant clairement les numéros des exercices.

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## Romney's Stump Speech Evolved Over Time

By ASHLEY PARKER, *The New York Times*, January 3, 2012

BEDFORD, N.H. —Last month in New Hampshire, Mitt Romney delivered what his aides billed his “closing argument,” a final pitch to voters before the nominating contests begin.

5 The remarks — an aggressive attack on President Obama combined with Mr. Romney's own vision for the future of the country — were the latest iteration of his stump speech, which has slowly evolved since he announced his candidacy for president.

10 The current speech differs from the earliest version, when Mr. Romney was trying to introduce himself to voters. In that, he often would begin with a meandering story about how when he was a boy, his parents put him in a Rambler and drove him across the country, from national park to national park, and instilled in him a love for the country.

His mother, he said, would read aloud from a book called “Men to Match My Mountains,” and early on the campaign trail, Mr. Romney liked to quote from the Samuel Walter Foss poem that inspired the book's name. (It's a poem he still recites, but with less frequency.)

15 “Bring me men to match my mountains, bring me men to match my plains,” Mr. Romney would say, quoting the poem's first four lines. “Men with empires in their purpose, and new eras in their brains.”

20 The current speech also differs from the one given during Mr. Romney's “humanizing phase,” when he was trying to show voters that, despite his \$200 million estimated net worth, he understood their concerns. Then, he began imbuing his remarks with more personal details, like how his father, born poor in Mexico, began as a lath and plaster carpenter before rising to lead American Motors, and how his wife, Ann, was the granddaughter of a Welsh coal miner.

25 During the fall, Mr. Romney began rolling out more policy-based addresses. He unveiled a foreign policy speech at The Citadel in South Carolina in October, in which he called Mr. Obama weak, and argued for a more muscular foreign policy and an “American century.” And in November, Mr. Romney modified his speech again to give it a heavier economic focus, detailing how he would overhaul entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare.

30 Mr. Romney has several failsafe lines, which occur often across all of his remarks. He always gets applause when he says that his first act in office would be repealing

“Obamacare,” the president’s health care overhaul. And he always gets appreciative laughs when he argues that he is not a career politician, having spent only four years in office as the governor of Massachusetts, saying, “I like to joke that I didn’t inhale.”

35 Mr. Romney’s latest speech combines elements from all his previous addresses. But this “closing argument,” which never once mentions any of his Republican rivals, presents an aggressive argument against four more years of Mr. Obama in the grandest of terms.

“This is an election not to replace a president, but to save a vision of America,” Mr. Romney says. “It’s a choice between two very different destinies.”

40 He paints the November contest as “a battle for America’s soul.”

Mr. Romney hits Mr. Obama directly: “President Barack Obama has reversed John Kennedy’s call for sacrifice<sup>1</sup>,” he says, in one of his harsher lines. “He would have Americans ask, ‘What can the country do for you?’ ”

45 He argues that Mr. Obama wants to create an “entitlement society,” whereas he prefers a “merit-based” society. “In a merit-based society, people achieve their dreams through hard work, education, risk-taking and even a little luck,” Mr. Romney says. “An opportunity society produces pioneers and inventors. It inspires its citizens to build and create.”

50 But his speech also offers a nuanced contrast between the two men. Mr. Romney often says that he believes in America, and asserts his love for the country; the unspoken implication is that Mr. Obama, who Mr. Romney sometimes suggests is taking his cues from the “social democrats in Europe,” does neither.

55 The speech, which features some of Mr. Romney’s strongest criticisms of Mr. Obama so far, is a reflection of the current moment in the race — a time when voters are finally tuning in, making their decisions and looking for an electable Republican who can beat the president in November. Mr. Romney has always sought to cast himself in terms of the general election, contrasting himself with Mr. Obama rather than his Republican opponents. But at the time Mr. Romney first gave this speech here in Bedford, his team also believed that they were having trouble breaking through “the noise,” as they dubbed  
60 the cacophony of strategy stories and political process pieces, and that one way to punch through was by intensifying their attacks on the president.

Still, all is not negative. When Mr. Romney took the stage, he did so to the thumping beat of his official campaign theme song: Kid Rock’s “Born Free.”

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<sup>1</sup>A reference to John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961: “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

## **I. Written Comprehension (/ 8)**

Read the article and answer the following questions:

1. Mr. Romney has deliberately chosen to attack President Obama in his campaign speeches. In your own words, explain what his main criticisms are.

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2. Using your own words, describe how Mr. Romney's speech has changed over time.

/ 3

3. When Mr. Romney uses expressions like "entitlement society," as opposed to "merit-based society," what is the contrast he is drawing between himself and President Obama?

/ 3

## **II. Synonyms (/ 4)**

Find synonyms in the article for the following words. Words appear in the same order as in the text, but not necessarily in the same form.

- a) Competition
- b) Rambling
- c) To equal or correspond to
- d) Path
- e) To reveal or disclose
- f) To revoke
- g) To label
- h) Pulsing

## **III. Essay (/ 8)**

Write an essay that is approximately 300 words in length (+/- 10%. Largely under or over this will incur penalty points).

Mitt Romney has chosen to base a great deal of his nomination campaign on attacks on President Obama. Taking a look back at previous presidential campaigns, in the U.S. or elsewhere in the world, would you argue that this is an effective approach? Justify and illustrate your answer.