



## DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1

1. On the afternoon of 28 April 2025, at exactly 12:33 p.m. local time, a massive and sudden power failure struck continental Spain and Portugal. In just a few seconds, about 15 gigawatts — roughly 60% of Spain's electricity supply — disappeared from the grid.
2. The blackout plunged tens of millions of people across the Iberian Peninsula into darkness. Subways and trains halted abruptly, traffic lights died, ATMs and electronic payment systems shut down, and mobile networks — including Internet access — went offline. People were trapped in elevators, stranded on platforms, and stuck in airports and stations. The disruption extended to everyday life: supermarkets closed, public transport was paralyzed, and businesses could not operate.
3. Hospitals and medical facilities were forced to switch to emergency generators. While critical cases and emergencies continued to be handled, many routine operations were postponed or canceled. Meanwhile, emergency services scrambled to respond to calls — as communication networks were unreliable.
4. As chaos unfolded in the streets — with traffic jams, bewildered commuters, and darkened stations — both national and regional authorities declared a state of crisis. In Spain, several regions asked the central government to assume control over public order. Governments from both countries convened emergency meetings to address the outage and determine its causes.
5. Initial speculation included a possible cyberattack or coordinated technical sabotage. However, very quickly, both Spanish and Portuguese officials, along with national security authorities, stated that there was no evidence of foul play.
6. In the days following the blackout, a 45-expert panel convened under the umbrella of ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity) to investigate. Their first "factual report" confirmed that what occurred on 28 April constituted the most significant power-system event in Europe in more than two decades.
7. The report identified a phenomenon of "cascading overvoltage" — in which surging voltages triggered a chain reaction of automatic disconnections across the grid — as the immediate cause. The grid was unable to absorb or manage the surge. Experts noted that the event involved several failures: voltage instability, oscillations shortly before the blackout, generation trips, and insufficient reserve capacity from thermal power stations.
8. Spanish authorities described the origin of the blackout as multifactorial. They pointed to failures by some energy-producing companies, which were supposed to absorb voltage surges, and also criticized the national grid operator for poor planning and inadequate readiness.
9. Even as power began to return — by the next morning more than 99% of Spain's supply had been restored, and most of Portugal followed — the incident left a deep mark on public consciousness. It exposed vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure and prompted urgent calls for reforms to prevent similar system-wide blackouts.

10. For many, the blackout was a stark reminder of how dependent modern societies are on electricity -- and how fragile that dependency becomes when technical safeguards fail. Authorities in both countries, along with European regulators, pledged to implement stringent improvements to grid supervision, voltage-control mechanisms, and emergency-response protocols to avoid a repeat of that unprecedented outage.

*Adapted from the Guardian, August 2025*

**PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION: (30pts)**

**Question 1: Which is the best title for the text?**

- (a) Recurrent Power Failures in Europe Are Disrupting Daily Life
- (b) The Day the Iberian Peninsula Went Dark
- (c) How Cyberattacks Threaten Modern Societies

**Question 2: Say whether the following statements are true or false. Provide justifications from the text:**

- (a) All hospital interventions were carried out as normal during the blackout.
- (b) It was confirmed that the outage was triggered by a cyberattack.
- (c) The blackout was caused by a combination of technical failures.

**Question 3: Pick out from the text sentences showing how communication was deeply impacted by the blackout.**

**Question 4: Which four words best describe the general atmosphere following the power failure?**

confusion – reliability – turmoil – reconciliation – mismanagement – breakdown – preparedness – breakthrough

**Question 5: Answer the following questions:**

- (a) How did the medical staff manage to ensure some of its services?
- (b) What are the parties that the officials in Spain held responsible for the April outage?

**Question 6: Complete the flow chart on the answer sheet with information from the text to explain the technical causes that led to the outage.**

**Question 7: Complete the sentence on the answer sheet using phrases from the text.**

**Question 8: Find in the text words having approximately the same meaning as:**

- (a) hit (§1)
- (b) in a sudden manner (§2)
- (c) weaknesses (§9)
- (d) strict or rigorous (§10)

**Question 9: What do the underlined words in the text refer to?**

- (a) its (§4)
- (b) their (§6)
- (c) they (§8)
- (d) It (§9)

**Question 10: Choose the most appropriate option:**

“the blackout was a stark reminder of how dependent modern societies are on electricity”

**(§10) means:**

- (a) The blackout revealed that modern societies can operate smoothly without electrical infrastructure.
- (b) The blackout showed that electricity is a luxury rather than a prerequisite for the functioning of contemporary life.
- (c) The blackout demonstrated the extent to which basic daily activities rely on uninterrupted electrical power.

**PART TWO: LANGUAGE TASKS (30pts):**

**Question 11: Put the bracketed words in the correct tense: (5pts)**

A volcano in Ethiopia's north-eastern region (a) **(erupt)** for the first time in nearly 12,000 years, sending thick plumes of smoke up to 9 miles (14km) into the sky, and across the Red Sea toward Yemen and Oman. The Hayli Gubbi volcano, which (b) **(locate)** in Ethiopia's Afar region about 500 miles north-east of Addis Ababa, rises about 500 metres in altitude and (c) **(sit)** within the Rift Valley, a zone of intense geological activity. While no human lives and livestock (d) **(lose)** so far, many villages have been covered in ash and as a result their animals have little to eat. According to the Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program, Hayli Gubbi has had no known eruptions during the Holocene, which (e) **(begin)** about 12,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age.

**Question 12: Put the bracketed words in the correct form: (5pts)**

At least 128 people are now known to (a) **(die)**, with dozens still (b) **(miss)** after a fire ripped through a high-rise Hong Kong residential estate on Wednesday, authorities say. At a news briefing, they add that 79 people were injured and 16 bodies remain inside the buildings after the city's (c) **(bad)** blaze in decades. Fire alarms in all eight blocks in the northerly suburb of Tai Po were also found to be not working (d) **(effective)**, the fire service says. Experts tell the BBC bamboo scaffolding, along with other (e) **(construct)** materials found at the buildings might have contributed to the rapid spread of the fire.

**Question 13: Find synonyms to the bracketed words. You are given the first two letters of the word. The number of dots corresponds to the number of the missing letters: (5pts)**

Road accidents have become a serious concern in Tunisia over the last few years. Every day, (a) **di...** (= **tragic**) collisions occur on highways and rural roads, often caused by speeding, (b) **ca...** (= **inattentive**) overtaking, or the use of mobile phones while driving. Despite government campaigns promoting road (c) **se...** (= **safety**), many drivers still disregard basic traffic rules. As a result, hundreds of families suffer devastating losses each year. Improving infrastructure, (d) **en...** (= **imposing**) stricter laws, and raising public (e) **aw...** (= **consciousness**) are important steps to reduce these accidents.

**Question 14: Find antonyms to the bracketed words. You are given the first two letters of the word. The number of dots corresponds to the number of the missing letters: (5pts)**

In recent weeks, several regions around the world have reported a worrying (a) **su...** (**≠ decline**) in bird flu cases, particularly the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain. The outbreak has affected both (b) **wi...** (**≠ domestic**) birds and poultry farms, forcing authorities in some

countries to cull thousands of chickens and ducks to prevent the virus from spreading further. Experts have also noted (c) **un... (≠ ordinary)** deaths among migratory birds, raising concerns about how (d) **fa... (≠ slowly)** the virus is moving across borders. Although the risk to humans remains relatively low, governments have launched campaigns to inform the public about symptoms and safety measures, emphasising that early detection is (e) **es... (≠ unnecessary)**.

**Question 15: Express differently using compound adjectives: (4pts)**

- (a) Many countries are investing in (1) **(energy without carbon)** to reduce (2) **(greenhouse gas emissions that threaten the environment)**.
- (b) (1) **(The nuclear plant which is regulated carefully)** provides (2) **(an energy output of three megawatts)** to local communities.

**Question 16: Express differently starting as given on the answer sheet: (6pts)**

- (a) I am certain they didn't see the message.
- (b) The team won't qualify for the later stages if it loses the match.
- (c) They wanted to know if the parties had reached an agreement.
- (d) Thousands of people in the region continue to suffer from severe starvation despite international aid efforts.
- (e) Without the state's subsidies for the cost of solar panels, people won't be encouraged to use renewable energy.
- (f) It's unfortunate that farmers don't use smart irrigation systems to reduce the amount of water wasted every year.

**PART THREE: WRITING TASKS (20pts)**

**Question 17: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate linkers from the list (there are additional ones): (4pts)**

**while - but - despite - in addition to - what's more - consequently - not only**

For at least two decades in Australia, much effort has gone towards making the green energy transition a reality. Solar panels are now on a third of Australian houses, (a) wind farms funnel ever more energy into power grids, (b) reaching new heights of 43% in the main grid this year. (c), electric vehicles are becoming more common on Australian roads, and the production of green steel is nascent (d) promising.

**Question 18: In each line there is one wrong word. Find the mistakes and correct them in the space provided on the answer sheet: (4pts)**

Mutant weather refers to the new, extreme and unpredictable weather phenomenon that are the result for climate change. This term describes how weather events are becoming more intense and frequent. Climate change, caused by rising global temperatures, creates conditions for these mutations and increasing their catastrophic affects.

**Question 19: Essay: (12pts)**

Science and technology enable human beings to reduce the impact of natural disasters.

To what extent is this true?

Write a 15-line essay where you discuss the question using solid arguments.



**NOTE**

**AVIS IMPORTANT AUX ETUDIANTS**

1. Chacune des feuilles de votre copie doit comporter une étiquette code à barres placée à l'endroit indiqué «coller ici votre code à barres»
2. Une copie d'examen comporte une seule «feuille principale» et des «feuilles suites» Sur chacune de vos feuilles, le code à barres est obligatoire
3. Cette feuille d'examen est strictement personnelle Elle ne doit comporter aucun signe distinctif Elle doit être écrite en noir et/ou bleu
4. Le non respect de l'une de ces exigences peut faire attribuer la note ZERO à l'épreuve

Coller ici votre  
code à barre

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| I.P.E.I.S. | <b>DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°1</b><br>(ANSWER SHEET) | A.U. : 2025/2026 / Niveau : 2ème année<br>Epreuve : Anglais / Durée : 2 heures |
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**PART ONE: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: (30pts)**

**Question 1: The best title for the text (1pt)**

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**Question 2: True or false statements. Provide justifications from the text. (6pts)**

- (a) (.....).....  
.....
- (b) (.....).....  
.....
- (c) (.....).....  
.....

**Question 3: Sentences showing how communication was deeply impacted by the blackout. (3pts)**

- (a) .....
- (b) .....
- (c) .....

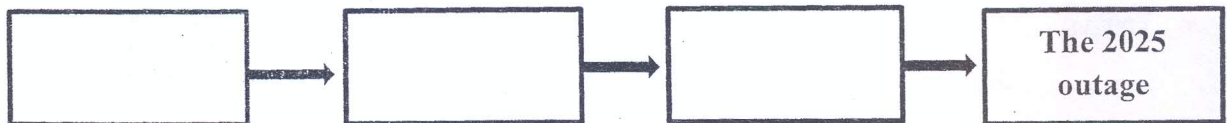
**Question 4: The four words: (4pts)**

(a) .....  
(c) .....

(b) .....  
(d) .....

**Question 5: Answers: (2pts)**

(a) .....  
(b)\* .....  
\* .....

**Question 6: Flow Chart Completion: (3pts)****Question 7: Sentence Completion: (3pts)**

After the blackout, decision makers promised to introduce measures aiming at ameliorating (a) ....., (b) ..... and (c) ..... to prevent similar incidents in the future.

**Question 8: Words having approximately the same meaning as: (4pts)**

(a) hit (§1) : .....  
(b) in a sudden manner (§2) : .....  
(c) weaknesses (§9) : .....  
(d) strict or rigorous (§10) : .....

**Question 9: References: (4pts)**

(a) its (§4) : .....  
(b) Their (§6) : .....  
(c) They (§8) : .....  
(d) It (§9) : .....

**Question 10: The most appropriate option: (1pt)**

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**PART TWO: LANGUAGE TASKS: (30pts)**

**Question 11: Put the bracketed words in the correct tense: (5pts)**

|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (c) | (e) |
| (b) | (d) |     |

**Question 12: Put the bracketed words in the correct form: (5pts)**

|     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (c) | (e) |
| (b) | (d) |     |

**Question 13: Find synonyms to the bracketed words: (5pts)**

|                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| (a) di . . . . . | (c) se . . . . . | (e) aw . . . . . |
| (b) ca . . . . . | (d) en . . . . . |                  |

**Question 14: Find antonyms to the bracketed words: (5pts)**

|              |                  |                  |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| (a) su . . . | (c) un . . . . . | (e) es . . . . . |
| (b) wi . .   | (d) fa . .       |                  |

**Question 15: Express differently using compound adjectives: (4pts)**

- (a) (1) .....energy  
 (2) ..... greenhouse gas emissions
- (b) (1) The ..... nuclear plant  
 (2) a..... energy output

**Question 16: Express differently starting as given: (6pts)**

- (a) They can't.....
- (b) Unless .....
- (c) ".....?", they asked.
- (d) Although .....
- (e) Provided that .....
- (f) If farmers .....

**PART THREE: WRITING TASKS: (20pts)**

**Question 17: Appropriate linkers: (4pts)**

|     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

**Question 18: Finding mistakes and correcting them: (4pts)**

| Mistakes | Correction |
|----------|------------|
| (a)..... | (a) .....  |
| (b)..... | (b).....   |
| (c)..... | (c).....   |
| (d)..... | (d) .....  |

**Question 19: Essay: (12pts)**

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