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## Consignes

- Remplir soigneusement l'en-tête de chaque feuille avant de commencer à composer
- Rédiger avec un stylo non effaçable bleu ou noir
- Ne rien écrire dans les marges (gauche et droite)
- Numéroté chaque page (cadre en bas à droite)
- Placer les feuilles A3 ouvertes, dans le même sens et dans l'ordre

## I. Comprehension

September

Queen Elizabeth II died in ~~December~~ 2022 after a long reign during which she led and embodied the country. Thus, what's her legacy? To what extent did she change her country? She will be remembered for the stability of her reign, even if some topics still threaten the tranquility of the country.

First and foremost, the Queen was a head of state. According to Jasanoff (2022) she was known for her devotion to her job. Thus, she might be remembered for her own merits rather than for her function. Anderson underlines the fact that it could be a problem for the future of the monarchy as an institution. Indeed, the constitution being unwritten, the balance of powers is based on a trade-off: Charles III is not protected by the institution, he will have to build his own popularity to strengthen the monarchy.

Furthermore, Elizabeth II embodied the country as a mother: Anderson explains that she was the mother of a multicultural family. She had a personal link with the Empire and then with the Commonwealth. Thus, her death might endanger the link between the United Kingdom and the countries of the Commonwealth. According to Jasanoff, the queen's legacy also consists in <sup>memorial</sup> conflicts of memory, such as slavery and violence during the colonial era. She embodied continuity but the country now has to face its past without the "misan" she represented.

Indeed, the Queen also embodied a myth, a patriotic and imperial myth which is fossilized by her death. The stability she represented might have been, according to Jasanoff, a myth rather than a reality. The world evolved, not her image: this old-fashioned way to lead the country ~~helped to disguise~~ <sup>disguizing</sup>

some territorial and constitutional problems, such as the desire of independence of Ireland, Scotland and some countries of the Commonwealth.

All in all, the Queen's legacy mainly consists in questions about the future. She embodied continuity and her death is a rupture which underlines the divisions of the country. Elizabeth II was a link, as a devoted head of state, and the monarchy as an institution might be fragilized by her death. Thus, the issues that Charles III has to face are the reflect of Elizabeth's legacy.

Number of words : 359

### III. Theme

Having been walking in the cheerful streets of London on the coronation of the Queen's day, in 1953, sociologists Michael Young and Edward Shils called the event: "a great act of national cohesion". They wrote that it took it's full meaning as "a collective experience rather than an individual one". It gathered thousands of families in a popular atmosphere which ~~was~~ remembered the <sup>celebration of the</sup> victory over the Nazis' Germany. The air was vibrating because of human warmth; even pickpockets had stopped working, and a spirit of brotherhood reigned. "Those who have the nationalist bias of indoctrinated people of our era, mostly those who have a radical or a liberal political line" would have hated this spirit.

Today, whereas inequalities don't stop growing in the United Kingdom, the monarchy seems to remain popular. Almost two British people out of three approve its existence. There are only 22% of people who ~~think~~ <sup>wish</sup> its disparition, the most hostile being the Scottish. This is surprisingly paradoxical: in difficult times, the royal family seems to be used as a by-pass or as a way to be consoled. During the royal weddings of those ten past years, there was always a common man to claim that the mood of the nation needed a medicine to be strenghten.

## II. Expression personnelle

Queen Elizabeth II died on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, after fifty-nine years of reign. In his book The King's two bodies, Kontorovich theorized the fact that the "body natural" of the ~~king~~ <sup>sovereign</sup> could die, but that ~~conversely~~ the "body spiritual" could not. ~~But~~ Will the British monarchy really survive the Queen's death and the current challenges to its existence?

The Queen embodied stability so her death rose a lot of questions which had been hidden by her image of unity. The existence of the monarchy is indeed a constitutional challenge, but not only: it also has a territorial and a memorial impact. Will ~~notably~~ <sup>maybe</sup> to embody unity, the Scottish and Irish independence movements might manage to break up the United Kingdom.

Thus, will Charles III manage to face those issues or is his unpopularity the sign of the end of the British monarchy? On the one hand, many issues are threatening the monarchy and its institutional legitimacy. But on the other hand, ~~this is a challenge~~: if the monarchy manages to face those issues and to modernize itself, it could be strengthened.

Charles III has three main issues to face: ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> own unpopularity, ~~the~~ need of modernization of the royal institution and the division of the country.

British people were deeply attached to Elizabeth II and Charles suffers from his unpopularity. After a reign of fifty-nine years, it's hard to embody both continuity and the patriotic myth, as exemplified by the slogan "#NotMyKing". Indeed, he seems to be rejected by the population, but also by politicians. The "Black spider memo" shared that ~~the~~ a member of the royal family cannot give ~~his~~ his opinion. According to Beckett in The English Constitution, the king has "dignity powers" but not "effective powers". This means that, to be accepted, Charles III might need to become a symbolic figure.

The monarchy is indeed endangered by this lack of popularity: according to Anderson, as long as there is no written constitution, the institutional compromised ~~is~~ is threatened. Furthermore, the monarchy is expensive and "old fashioned". Some polls (doc 4) reveal that it's less popular among ~~young~~ young people. Then, it's not only Charles who is unpopular, but the monarchy ~~in itself~~.

Besides, the Queen embodied unity and her death might mean a division of the country. In Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, who resigned on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, advocated for independence. The SNP asked for a ~~new~~ referendum, because the previous one (2014) didn't

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take into account Brexit (2016). "Devoman", which gave more financial autonomy to Holywood, shows that Scotland is leaning forward independence. In Northern Ireland, Sinn Féin party asked for independence too, claim strengthened by a Brexit with a custom frontier around Great Britain instead of United Kingdom.

However, those issues are also a challenge which could lead to a modernization of the monarchy.

Even if this reign may not last 59 years, Charles III might embody continuity, ~~among~~ <sup>an</sup> important feature of ~~this~~ the monarchy (doc 3). Indeed, Charles represents stability, compared with Tross who stayed 45 days in office (the shelf life of a lettuce according to The Economist).

Furthermore, a majority of the population is still in favor of the monarchy (doc 4), mainly old people and pro-Brexit citizens. Indeed, it's a tradition to which people remain attached.

All in all, in the short term, the monarchy will survive the challenges if it accepts modernization.

Number of words : 596

NE RIEN ÉCRIRE DANS CE CADRE



