



INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA STATISTIQUE ET DES ÉTUDES ÉCONOMIQUES

**ECOLE NATIONALE DE LA STATISTIQUE
ET DE L'ANALYSE DE L'INFORMATION**

Concours d'élève ingénieur de l'ENSAI

Concours d'attaché statisticien de l'INSEE

MAI 2009

SPECIALITE ECONOMIE

Composition d'anglais

Durée : 2 heures

Le sujet comprend 3 pages (y compris celle-ci).

Sans dictionnaire.

Sans documents.

The fattest state of the union

If you want to look at obesity trends, then the US is the place to visit. It has the most obese population in the developed world, and the rate of increase is alarming. So where to go in the US? You could choose any state. But one stands out more than most. Mississippi in the Deep South is proud of its hospitality and of being the home of Blues music. But one thing it is not proud of is being the fattest state in the union. The figures come from an annual survey by the Trust for America's Health. Three out of 10 (30.6%) adults in Mississippi are obese, more than in any other state. More reliable national data comes from the NHANES (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey), where individuals are actually measured and weighed. That shows that whereas in 1994, 22.9% of American adults were obese, it rose to 32.2% in 2004 and 34.3% in 2006. Some estimates suggest that by 2015 half the adult population in Mississippi will be obese.

So how does one state get to be the fattest in America? There are many factors. The Trust for America's Health survey found that adults in Mississippi are the least physically active of any state. The climate in Mississippi doesn't help according to the locals: hot, humid conditions for most of the year can make outdoor exercise unpleasant. Poverty is a key factor. Many obesity studies have shown that, in developed countries, the less educated you are, the more likely you are to become obese. That is partly to do with food choices. In the US the relative price of fresh fruit and vegetables has risen dramatically in the past 20 years, while the price of high calorie, high fat foods has fallen. Mississippi does have supermarkets awash with healthy products, but these can be as far as 40 miles (64 km) from each other. That means many of the poorest residents rely on small convenience stores where everything is pre-packed. I bought a doughnut from a gas station for 50 cents - about 25p. That one doughnut contained 65% of my daily recommended allowance of saturated fat - much higher than you'd find in most UK snacks. In restaurants it was often hard to find food that didn't have cheese on top. The portions are huge and much of the food is deep fried.

The cost of treating obesity-related health problems is soaring. There are some positive steps being taken. Some schools in the Mississippi Delta are running obesity prevention programmes. Children are encouraged to eat breakfast so they stay more alert at school. High calorie soft drinks have been banned from vending machines. More physical activity is on the curriculum. But the overwhelming feeling I had in Mississippi was that this is a place where - for too many people - food is about convenience and quantity more than fresh ingredients and quality.

BBC News, 03/02/2008

READ THE WHOLE TEXT BEFORE TRANSLATING THE PASSAGE INDICATED BELOW AND ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS.

1. TRANSLATION (10 marks)

Translate the third paragraph from: "The cost of treating obesity-related problems ..."
to " ...fresh ingredients and quality. "

2. QUESTIONS (10 marks)

a. Briefly explain, without translating them, what the following terms of the text mean:

(i) "stands out", (ii) "reliable", (iii) "high fat foods", (iv) "convenience stores", (v) "curriculum"
(2.5 marks)

b. Food is easy to find and easy to buy in the US. In this case, why, according to the article, are « food choices » responsible for increasing obesity levels ? (about 75 words)
(2.5marks)

c. Do you believe obesity is a menace for poor people only ? (about 250 words).
(5 marks)