

Diplôme d'accès aux études supérieures

Epreuves d'admission pour l'année préparatoire

English

Mardi, le 12 septembre 2017

Durée: 10.00 hrs. – 12.00 hrs.

DAES – ENGLISH – ENTRY TEST

Bavarian hamlet set to become the centre of a post-Brexit EU

It has just 78 inhabitants but will officially become the geographical heart of the European Union after Britain leaves.

Kate Connolly

When Karin Kessler harvested her winter oilseed rape in summer 2016, she was vexed by the sudden slump in the market price and put the crop into storage to wait for its value to rise.

1 “The Brexit referendum had rattled the markets,” the 51-year-old farmer recalled. “I ended up selling in December instead.”

2 In the run-up to 2017’s harvest in mid-July, her main concern will be quite different: how to manoeuvre her combine harvester around the wooden post in the field marking the future geographical centre of the European Union.

“It was a bit of a surprise to wake up to the news,” Kessler said. “You could say Brexit has rattled us again but in a good way, if that’s possible.”

3 Kessler was in the village shop in Gadheim – home to just 78 inhabitants – when she was told the news by the baker, who had herself just heard it on the radio: the hamlet she had grown up in and where her family has farmed for 150 years will officially become the geographical heart of the EU after Britain leaves.

4 The ruling, which filtered through Gadheim on the day that the British Prime Minister, Theresa May triggered article 50 and started the process of quitting the EU, has come from French cartographers at the geographic information engineering institute (IGN) in Paris.

5 They have decreed that the EU’s eastward shift following Britain’s exit will mean the village of Westerngrund, about 50 miles (80km) away, relinquishes the title to Gadheim, just north of Würzburg in Bavaria.

6 The precise coordinates are 9° 54' 07" E and 49° 50' 35" N. It was not until Kessler’s 25-year-old son, Michael, a software engineer, put them into his mobile phone that she realized the location was not only in Gadheim but right in the middle of her 55-hectare farm, placing it, as she put it, “at the belly button of the EU.”

7 Bernard Bèzes, of the IGN, said the calculation had been made after people contacted the institute “asking to know precise measurements for the centre of a post-Brexit EU”. His institute has also calculated the centre of the continent of Europe to be in Lithuania, much to the delight of the village of Purnuskės.

8 Brigitte Heim was happy to explain why being the centre of the EU matters so much. She is the mayor of Westerngrund, which became the new centre after

Croatia joined the EU in 2013.

9 “We have about 10,000 visitors who come here every year just because of this,” Heim said. The village has marked the spot, in a field on the edge of the village, with an EU flag and some picnic tables. The official inauguration of the spot was accompanied by a brass band. A hiking route between Westerngrund and the village of Gelnhausen Meerholz – the title-holder from 2007 after Romania and Bulgaria joined – was also instigated.

10 Heim said she had no hard feelings towards Gadheim for stealing Westerngrund’s thunder. “We always knew it was a gift lent to us for a limited amount of time,” she said. “We just set about making the most of it. But we’re shocked and saddened by Brexit. When we earned the title, it was because a country had joined; now we’re losing it because, for the first time, a country is leaving the EU – we just hope the negotiations take longer than two years so we can hang on to it a little longer.”

11 In the 1950s, when the EU was still a small community of six, the centre was located close to the Franco-Swiss border just outside the city of Besançon. By 1987, with 12 members, it had shifted to the central French village of Puy de Dôme, and in 2004, to Germany, where it has been ever since.

12 Kurt Aldemann said he was mystified as to why anyone would want to leave the EU. Aldemann, 81, a retired telecommunications technician, drove from his home in nearby Veitshöchheim and along the dirt track at the foot of the Franconian hills to photograph the spot for himself when the news reached him.

13 “I was a nine-year-old boy when war ended”, he said. “But I remember all the bombing raids in and around this area and being haunted by the grave of a German soldier in the woods where we played. I can appreciate the fact that we’ve enjoyed 70 years of peace and the EU, I think, has been the best way of guaranteeing that.”

14 “Still, I can’t say it’s not nice that we’re being put on the map. If there’s a Brexit winner, then maybe, it’s Gadheim.”

Jürgen Götz, the mayor with responsibility for Gadheim, said he hoped the news would encourage more investment and tourism to the area, which boasts one of the finest rococo gardens in Germany and a medieval pilgrimage site.

15 “Of course, we have mixed feelings about all this,” he said, standing by an EU flag that has been hoisted in the centre of the village. “We’re still discussing what we’ll do: put up a proper flag pole, erect a sausage kiosk, a hiking route with Westerngrund, that sort of thing. But we’ll enjoy it while it lasts. We can also wish that the talks might collapse and it’ll never happen. Then again, if Scotland and Serbia were to join, everything would shift once more.”

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

/20 m.

Answer the questions in your own words as much as possible.

1. What is the article about? (25 words max.) (+1 m.)

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2. What do you know about these following places? /3 (+1 m. per complete answer). Write full sentences for each place.

- a. Gadheim

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- b. Westerngrund

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- a. Purnuskès

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3. Where exactly will the future centre of the EU be at the end of 2019? (+1 m.)

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4. What has the village already got, and what might it still do, to celebrate its new-found fame? (+2 m.)

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5. Explain why this fame might just be temporary. (+1 m.)

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6. Find the words in the article that match the definitions below. (+1 m. per right answer)

- a. a sudden large reduction in amount or value.
- b. to give up power, position or advantage.
- c. to talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements, possessions or abilities.
- d. here, to cause a feeling of distrust for something.
- e. to raise a flag to its highest position on a pole.
- f. officially decided and stated.

7. True (T) , False (F) or Not Mentioned (NM)? Circle the correct answer and justify it by quoting from the text. (+1 m. per right answer, including its justification)

1. Karin Kessler sold her winter oilseed rape at a lower price because of Brexit. T F NM

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2. More than 10,000 visitors attended the official inauguration of the spot. T F NM

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3. Gelnhausen Meerholz was the first German village to hold the EU-centre title. T F NM

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3. Kurt Aldemann regrets the United Kingdom's decision to leave the EU. T F NM

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4. Brigitte Heim hopes the United Kingdom will cancel the negotiations to leave the EU. T F NM

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5. The geographic information engineering institute was contacted just after Theresa May triggered article 50. T F NM

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6. Jürgen Götz is half-hearted about the news. T F NM

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WRITING /20 m.

“Leaving Europe was the best decision the UK could make. “

Write a well-structured essay, including an introduction, a main body consisting of 2 / 3 ideas on the pros and cons of being part of the European Union, and a conclusion in which you include your opinion.

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(_____ words)