



MP - PC - PSI

**Mardi 3 janvier 2023**  
**Durée de l'épreuve : 4h**

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*RAPPEL DES CONSIGNES*

**L'usage de toute machine (calculatrice, traductrice, etc.) est strictement interdit**

**Rédiger en anglais et en 500 mots une synthèse des documents proposés, qui devra obligatoirement comporter un titre comptabilisé dans le nombre de mots.**

Indiquer avec précision, à la fin du travail, le nombre de mots utilisés ; un écart de 10 % en plus ou en moins sera accepté.

**Ce sujet propose les 5 documents suivants :**

- **Document 1:** un article intitulé "We need to separate sport and politics. But also recognise that they're inseparable", Kenan Malik, *The Observer*, 13 Juin 2022.
- **Document 2:** un dessin de presse de Daniel Garcia, "Washing machine", 17 Novembre 2022.
- **Document 3:** un sondage de *Pew Research Center*, réalisé en Septembre 2019.
- **Document 4:** un article intitulé "How World Cup politics explain the modern world", *CNN*, Stephen Collinson, 23 Novembre 2022.
- **Document 5:** un éditorial intitulé "Judge Jeanine Pirro: NFL players taking a knee, Commissioner Roger Goodell, shame on all of you", *Fox News*, Jeanine Pirro, 24 Septembre 2017.

*L'ordre dans lequel se présentent les documents est arbitraire et ne revêt aucune signification particulière.*

## **DOCUMENT 1: We need to separate sport and politics. But also recognise that they're inseparable**

"Fans don't want politics brought into football." Many would agree with Tory MP Lee Anderson's sentiment. And so, he carried on, in response to England footballers "taking the knee" before a match: "For the first time in my life I will not be watching my beloved England team while they are supporting a political movement whose core principles' aim is to undermine our way of life."

But, wait, who is it now introducing politics into football? Those taking the knee or those who insist that to do so is helping to "undermine our way of life"? Or both? And why is it that those obsessed with flying the flag suddenly find their patriotism so thin they cannot support the national team if players do a bit of kneeling? Or even cheer on opposing teams? It seems there's greater loyalty to the culture wars than to the nation.

As it happens, if, in some other universe, I somehow found myself in the England team, I would not take the knee. Not because I fear for our way of life, but because I agree with Crystal Palace forward Wilfried Zaha, who views it as a meaningless ritual in which he refuses to partake. But if players find it meaningful and important, let them do it.

Most fans would probably agree that politics should be kept out of sport. We want sporting prowess to be "pure", expressions of sublime skill or awe-inspiring endurance that are intrinsic to the sport and capture the genius of human athleticism. When we watch Lionel Messi floating through a gaggle of defenders as if with the ball fixed to his boot, or a picture-perfect cover drive from Virat Kohli, or Simone Biles's triple-twisting double tuck in her floor routine, too fast for the eye to follow – each transfixes us by transforming our assumptions of what is humanly possible.

But sport, even in its most inspirational moments, does not exist in a vacuum. The relationship between sports and politics operates at many levels. Many sports were designed to enforce social needs, from Japanese martial arts, celebrated as a means of spiritual development and social ordering, to cricket, an instrument through which Victorians sought to teach the ruling class to rule and the plebs to obey.

The cleavage between rugby union and rugby league betrays the two codes' class origins. The Glasgow rivalry between Celtic and Rangers is deeply invested in religious sectarianism and the politics of Irish nationalism. The current row between Russia and Ukraine over the latter's shirt at the Euros is just the latest expression of national hostilities spilling out into the sports field. And sportsmen and women have often used their platforms to make a political point, from US sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising black-gloved fists on the podium at the 1968 Olympic games, to NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick who in 2016 first took the knee during the national anthem as a protest against racist violence, to Manchester United's Paul Pogba and Amad Diallo raising a Palestinian flag after a Premier League match last month.

Most of us want the humanness of sporting achievement to transcend the immediacy of its political and social environment. Few want sporting tribalism to be consumed by political divisions. Nevertheless, most recognise that sport cannot be detached from its social grounding. Nor would we want it to be. For it is that grounding that imbues sport with much of its meaning.

As a child in 1970s Britain, Muhammad Ali was for me far more than a boxer. He brought an uncommon grace to the most brutal of sports. What defined him, though, was not just his skill in the ring but his attitude outside it, too – his willingness to defy the authorities, his contemptuous rejection of the expected role of a black man in a racist society, his courage in refusing to fight in Vietnam, despite the authorities stripping him of his world title and his boxing licence, his insistence that "I don't have to be what you want me to be".

To a boy growing up in a Britain in which racism was vicious and visceral to a degree almost unthinkable now, Ali was a soul-affirming symbol of defiance and pride. And, inevitably, he was condemned. All of which brings us back to taking the knee. Harry Kane or Marcus Rashford kneeling at Wembley this afternoon will be no Muhammad Ali moment and those who argue that it is a form of "virtue signalling" have a point. But nor is it a "Marxist" gesture or one "undermining our way of life". Those obsessed by its maleficence are equally anti-virtue signalling.

**DOCUMENT 2: Garcia, “Washing machine”, 17 November 2022**

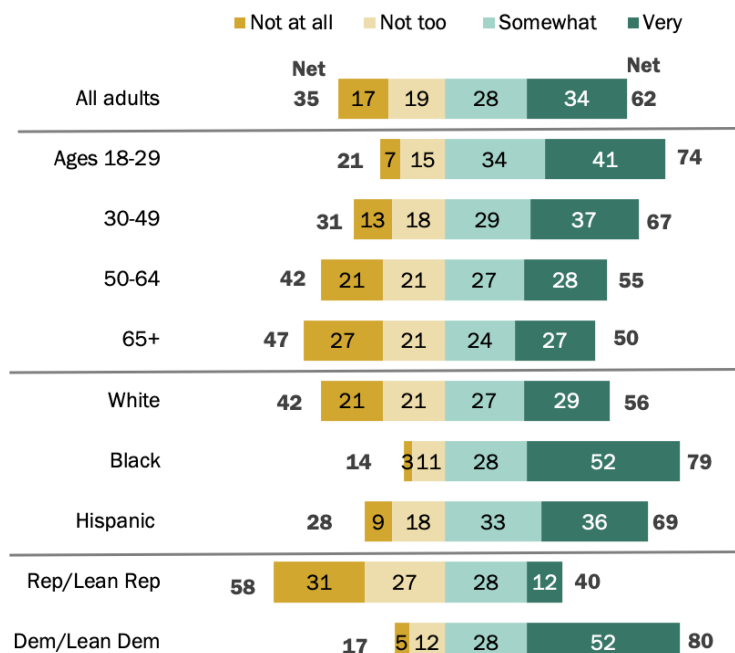


Caption: Qatar and FIFA try their best to present a squeaky-clean World Cup to the world.

**DOCUMENT 3: Survey from Pew Research Center, conducted in September 2019**

**In the U.S., views about athletes speaking out on political issues differ by age, race, ethnicity and party**

% saying it is \_\_\_ acceptable for professional athletes to speak out publicly about political issues



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. Figures may not add to subtotals due to rounding. Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 16-29, 2019.

## **DOCUMENT 4: How World Cup politics explain the modern world**

Billions of people will watch the World Cup in Qatar, fixated on one of the world's premier sporting festivals. But football's governing body FIFA has also unleashed a political tempest, highlighting moral, business and geopolitical dilemmas shaping the modern world.

Disputes about FIFA thwarting a bid by European teams to support LGBTQ+ diversity, women's rights, the treatment of immigrant workers who built air conditioned stadiums in the desert and the availability of alcohol in the Muslim nation raged since before the opening game. The dramas revived suspicions that a sport that presents itself as open to all ignored human rights and political repression in Qatar for a share of its host's oil riches in a nation with little cultural or historical connection to the beautiful game.

Briana Scurry, a retired World Cup winning goalie for the US women's national team, told CNN's "Newsroom" Tuesday that FIFA had brought on this political storm with its choice of venue for the World Cup. "When you choose the country, you choose the consequences," she said.

Any World Cup – expected to draw a big chunk of the world's population to watch its final game in December – is bound to tap into the societal and political zeitgeist.

For instance, Iranian players declined to sing their national anthem in their opening game against England on Monday, in a possible protest about the violent suppression of dissent rocking the Islamic Republic.

The tournament in Qatar mirrors a global shift in power and especially financial muscle – from the capitals of Western Europe to new epicenters in the Middle East, India and China. And football, with its massive global appeal, is taking a huge cut. Traditional working class football clubs knitted into their communities for decades now suddenly find themselves owned by foreign energy magnates. Premier League giant Manchester City was bought by a United Arab Emirates-led group. And Newcastle United is owned by a Saudi Arabia-led consortium, forcing fans to consider (or not) the ethical dimensions of their support for their hometown clubs.

The phenomenon is known as "sports washing" in which an authoritarian nation seeking to buff up their image, despite serious criticism over their political system and human rights performance, woos the world's top sporting stars. China was accused of such an agenda with its 2008 and 2022 Summer and Winter Olympics, where attempts at political activism largely fizzled under its repressive rule.

This World Cup, like many recent major international supporting events, is forcing fans to consider more than the final score. There's a question here over the extent to which visiting fans should respect local traditions that infringe their own values and freedoms.

It's not new for a global sporting event to unfold in a politically charged atmosphere. US athlete Jesse Owens, for example, undercut Adolf Hitler's claims of a Nazi master race with his showing at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. At the 1968 Mexico Olympics, US track stars Tommie Smith and John Carlos promoted civil rights with Black power salutes from the medal podium. Muhammad Ali was a racial and political icon as well as a boxing one.

The sense that athletes may be held to higher moral standards than their government is also key to the current feud in golf. Critics have slammed top pros for taking cash from Saudi Arabia. But the kingdom is a beneficiary of huge US arms sales and President Joe Biden went there this year to seek more oil production to alleviate high gasoline prices.

Ever since sport went global, it's always reflected social, cultural and religious trends and conflicts – despite calls from purists for it to remain a safe space from politics. So it's a good bet that when the footballing circus arrives stateside in 2026, some new off-the-field controversy will be competing with the score for attention.

## **DOCUMENT 5: Judge Jeanine Pirro: NFL players taking a knee, Commissioner Roger Goodell, shame on all of you**

The biggest issue facing our country today is the tip-toeing and political correctness that has brought us to the brink of disaster in national security, politics, and sports. The question now is: do we have the fortitude, courage, and determination to stand up to those who threaten our values?

Friday night in Alabama, President Trump did just that and took no prisoners on the sports issue and the NFL players who disrespect our flag. Last year San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who by the way is without a team this year, began the protest by taking a knee during our Star Spangled Banner.

The fallout was swift and certain. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell called the president's comments "divisive" saying that they demonstrate an "unfortunate lack of respect for the NFL, our great game and all of our players." He went on to say that the president exhibits "a failure to understand the overwhelming force for good our clubs and players represent in our communities."

According to USA Today, NFL player arrests are not only disproportionate to the general population, but the violence associated with these arrests is shocking. And I'm not even talking about the homicides.

And Commissioner, instead of taking sides against the national anthem, maybe you ought to think about your stock holders, your investors. Even though the stock market, thanks to President Trump is at an all-time high, there is one area that is suffering greatly. Companies that broadcast, yes, the NFL games.

NFL Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith says no one should have to choose a job that forces them to surrender their rights. He says they have "thoughtful discussions in our locker rooms and board rooms."

Hey, Maurice, the only people who choose a job that forces them to surrender their rights are cops – the ones who die protecting people they don't even know.

And just on Saturday night the Golden State Warriors are refusing to go to the White House – placing blame on the president saying, he has made it clear we are not invited.

That's nonsense... the president disinvited Stephen Curry, not the team.

Here's my take: People watch sports to get away from day-to-day stresses, work, illness, financial worries, we don't need to be reminded of political divisions.

All of a sudden, football players are lovers of the Constitution and the First Amendment – you're full of crap. And that includes Buffalo Bills running back LeSean McCoy who called the president a word that I can't say... You want to kneel, sit, or raise your fist during the national anthem, you ought to go kneel in front of a guy who has lost his limbs fighting for you so that *you* can call the president that!

And don't give me this crap that you guys want to support reform and stand up against social injustice. When was the last time you voted? Wrote a letter to your legislator or congressional representative? You want to convince America that this is about social justice and the Constitution then maybe you ought to get off your ass and do something positive for the country that has allowed you to make a fortune.

America has been incredibly good to you. From the time you displayed talent in sports as a youth America allowed you to shine and become financially prosperous. There are so many of you who make tens of millions of dollars why don't you get together and take care of the social injustice instead of disrespecting our country?

The country that has turned you into heroes while you train 8-year-olds who don't know any better to take a knee against America... because they're taking their lead from all of you when they don't know any better. Shame on you. Shame on all of you for not showing you love this country as much as the president does – when you had the chance.