

# ANGLAIS

## GROUPE 14

	<i>Durée</i>	<i>Coefficient</i>
<i>BTS Chimiste</i>	<b>2 heures</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>BTS Techniques physiques pour l'industrie et le laboratoire</i>	<b>2 heures</b>	<b>2</b>

**DICTIONNAIRE BILINGUE AUTORISÉ.  
L'USAGE DE LA CALCULATRICE EST INTERDIT.**

*Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien  
2 pages numérotées de 1/2 à 2/2.*

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**I / TRADUIRE EN FRANÇAIS.**

**(6 points)**

De la ligne 25 "*Using gas cookers...*" à la ligne 33 "*...noxious indoor mix*".

**II / RÉPONDRE EN ANGLAIS AUX QUESTIONS SUIVANTES :**

**(14 points)**

1) What are the sources of indoor pollution mentioned in the text?

To what extent can indoor pollution affect our health?

*(80 words)*

**(6 pts)**

2) What, in your opinion, could be done to reduce the level of pollution indoors?

*(100 words)*

**(8 pts)**

*Please use your own words as far as possible.*

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## Indoor pollution

# The enemy within

**A**VOIDING pollution can be a full-time job. Try not to inhale traffic fumes; keep away from chemical plants and building-sites; wear a mask when cycling. It is enough to make you want to stay at home. But that, according to a growing body of scientific evidence, would be a bad idea. Research shows that levels of pollutants such as hazardous gases, particulate matter and other chemical nasties are usually higher indoors than out, even in the most polluted cities. Since the average American spends 18 hours indoors for every hour outside, it looks as though many environmentalists may be attacking the wrong target.

The latest study, conducted by two environmental engineers, Richard Corsi and Cynthia Howard-Reed, of the University of Texas in Austin, and published in *Environmental Science and Technology*, suggests that it is the process of keeping clean that may be making indoor pollution worse. The researchers found that baths, showers, dishwashers and washing machines can all be significant sources of indoor pollution, because they extract trace amounts of chemicals from the water that they use and transfer them to the air.

Nearly all public water supplies contain very low concentrations of toxic chemicals, most of them left over from the otherwise beneficial process of chlorination. Dr Corsi wondered whether they stay there when water is used, or whether they end up in the air that people breathe.

According to Dr Corsi, disproportionate effort is wasted campaigning against certain forms of outdoor pollution, when there is as much or more cause for concern indoors, right under people's noses.

Using gas cookers, or burning candles, for example, both result in indoor levels of carbon monoxide and particulate matter\* that are just as high as those to be found outside, amid heavy traffic. Overcrowded classrooms whose ventilation systems were designed for smaller numbers of children frequently contain levels of carbon dioxide that would be regarded as unacceptable on board a submarine. "New car smell" is the result of high levels of toxic chemicals, not cleanliness. Houses with integral garages make it easier for exhaust fumes to leak into the home. Laser printers, computers, carpets and paints all contribute to the noxious indoor mix.

The implications of indoor pollution for health are unclear. But before worrying about the mote in a distant polluter's eye, it makes sense to consider the beam in thine own. Scientists investigating indoor pollution will gather next month in Edinburgh at the "Indoor Air 99" conference to discuss the problem. Perhaps unwisely, the meeting is being held indoors.

*The Economist*, July 17<sup>th</sup> 1999

(420 mots)

\*particulate matter = substances en suspension