

For the latest  
news on  
international  
test  
developments

# TESTING TIMES

Christmas 2023 Edition

For the latest  
news on  
international  
test  
developments

## **BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCE NEW POLICIES TO WIN BACK TORY VOTERS**

*The package of measures is expected to include a 'True-Blue British English' Language Scheme and a clampdown on alleged anti-government bias on British television*

-----

*Rishi Sunak, the latest victim of the British Conservative Party's frenzied attempt to find even a moderately competent Prime Minister, is now making a last-ditch attempt to regain the popular vote by promoting the traditional qualities of True-British English while at the same time belittling all other languages, in particular French. He apparently intends to ring in the New Election Year 2024 by announcing a discriminaTORY language policy to "Bring Back Linguistic Control". In this MEGA-statement - MEGA = Make English Great Again - he will be attempting to establish a consensus among the British people (= TORY voters) that all foreign languages as well as all non-British forms of English need to be 'pushed back', stressing that UK people and 'worthy' would-be residents must rally around the one-and-only True Blue British English.*

*He will propose a number of measures to 'deliver' the following two aims, both of which are intended to deflect voters' attention from the utterly dissatisfacTORY performance of his government:*

*a) To denigrate and disparage all other inferior forms of language communication, and*

*b) To preserve and maintain the quality of True-Blue British English*

*The first signs of his anti-EU languages strategy became apparent recently when the latest in a broken chain of Home Secretaries, James Cleverly, declared in a statement to the House of Commons*

that "un oeuf is un oeuf" (cf. photo) in terms of immigration. The practice of deliberately mixing English and French, known as *Franglais*, is not new and was also employed by one of his numerous recent successors in discussions with the French President Macron, e.g. "Donnez-moi un break" and "Prenez un grip". Even Winston Churchill was alleged to have tried a similar tactic in his wartime conversations with *Général de Gaulle*, e.g. "Ne me double-croisez pas." Not to mention the famous "SUN" headline: "Up le vôtre, Delors!"



British people wishing to learn a non-British language are being warned of 'lefty' wokist language teachers who support grammatical gender issues such as "Der, Die and Das", or "Le and La". Long Live the True-Blue British THE!!!!

The major part of the new desultORY policy will however be the promotion of TBBE = True-Blue British English, and will include a number of measures that have their basis in many of the other unsuccessful policies and unfilled promises announced by the Government over the last twelve months. TESTING TIMES has been given a sneak preview:

# English as a Foreign Language will be re-named 'Great British English as THE Supreme and Only Language' (TESOL).

# In keeping with the intimidatORY fiscal policies proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, English syn-tax will be cut and simplified for speakers of True-Blue British English to ensure net-zero exam failures at all private independent schools.

# Any desire to insist on learning non-True-British languages will be put down to a question of 'lifestyle choice' similar to the present and imperfect tents problems seen every night on the streets of Westminster, i.e. all deviants need to be evicted.

# Tests in all non-British languages will be held on North Sea oil platforms so that the results can be rigged to prevent freedom of

movement. The format for such tests will be designed to provide for longer sentences (!) to ensure a net-zero foreign environment.

# According to an indiscrete but Cleverly worded statement, all areas of the UK where the locals are not proficient in True-Blue British English are to be declared "Language S++tholes".

# In a second version of the communication-based Human Resources Scheme known as HS2, points will be missed and test stations closed signalling that levelling-off is off the rails and no longer on track.

# To ensure high proficiency rates in True-Blue British English, test-takers will be allowed to create their own multiple-choice answers, unlike their deviant counterparts.

# TBBE candidates who fail their language test will receive a Diploma in ULEZ = Ungrammatical Language Emission Zombie to exclude them from re-entering authentic True-British Zones.

# Even True-Blue British English speakers will only be allowed to bring non-True-Blue English spouses into the country if they can prove they have a TBBE vocabulary of at least 38,700 words.

# In line with the policy introduced during Covid, a new mandaTORY scheme is to be introduced to support the removal of non-True-Blue English Speakers. This scheme, known affectionately as 'Rwandalust' among Downing Street advisors, will have the official title: "TEST OUT TO HELP OUT" = out of the country (as quickly as possible).

# After the recent Anglo-Greek contretemps concerning a few bits of rock, all foreign delegations to the UK will be required to take a test in British English for non-British Diplomats before entering Downing Street to ensure that nobody loses their marbles.

# People that take language tests in Paris will, on entering the UK, have to apologise - "Pardon my French" - before being expected to take French leave.

# To ensure the success of this TBBE policy a new 'out-of-bounds' or 'beyond our shores' assessment centre is being planned to hinder people whose syntax, morphology, prosodic features and sociocultural competence deviate from the statuTORY norm and threaten to dilute TBBE. This will be supervised by a new NIMBY

Language Czar (rumours have it that a certain Jacob Rees-Mogg is in line for this post). The Grammar Czar's team will include an Imperatives Inspector, a Participles Prince, an Auxiliaries Artist, a Modals Manager, a Copula Coordinator, a Comma Count, an Apostrophe Authority, a Word Order Wizard, a Gerundials Guru, an Ellipsis Expert, a Dangling Infinitives Doyenne, a Passive Voice Virtuoso, a Morpheme Maestro, an SVO Oracle, an Affixations Aficionado, a Transitive Verbs Tycoon, a WH-Questions Whizzkid, a Comparatives and Superlatives Supremo, a Progressive Tenses Priestess, a Compound Modifier Mistress, a Split Infinitive Scholar, a Question Tag Queen, a Back-Formation Boffin, an Imperatives Impresario, a Conditionals Connoisseur, a Bare Infinitives Buff, a Pronouns Professor, a Periphrasis Pasha, a Prepositions Potentate, an Honorifics Honcho, a Diacritics Director, a Lexical Gap Whatsit, a Causatives Cardinal, an Abbreviations CEO, an Inflectional Morphology Influencer, an Irregular Verb Regulator, a Descending Diphthong Diplomat and - not least - a Clause Saint (in December).

# For party political reasons, such measures will not be applied retrospectively to those people who many years ago arrived in the UK lacking many features of TBBE but were still able to reach high ministerial status in Conservative-led governments - Priti Pathetic and Surly Blatherman.

# To deflect attention from the multiple failures and ongoing political disasters of the present Government, their supporters (supposiTORIES) are being urged to check Christmas carols for possible deliberately ambiguous and biased references to the various crises afflicting the UK at the present time. All Tory voters are therefore being urged NOT TO SING the following Xmas songs:

### I Saw Three Ships

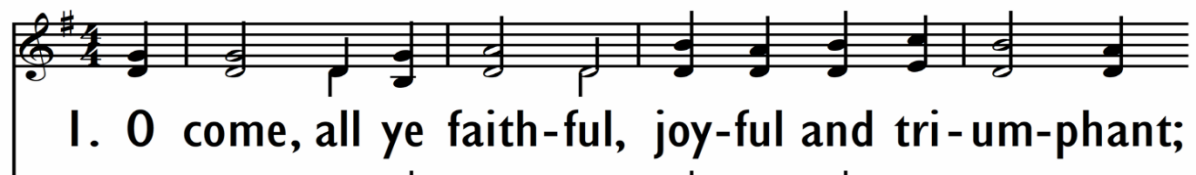


### In the Bleak Midwinter

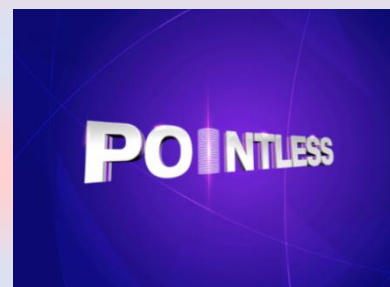




*Instead loyal party members are being recommended to nostalgically focus on their last leader-but-one and sing:*



*# There is also increasing pressure on the BBC to ban any Christmas programmes whose titles might be misinterpreted to be prejudiced comments on the present Conservative government. This ban includes such well-known shows as:*



last **MAN** standing





The urgency of the issue has now been underlined by the need to appoint two ministers to deal with problems that previously only one, now dis-appointed minister had to deal with. However, despite the high linguistic standards set by the True-Blue British English elite, it remains unclear whether the new Illegal Language Migration Minister is an illegal minister for language migration or a minister for (or against ?) illegal language migration.

# To demonstrate the hoped-for success of the new policy, the government will produce a quarterly report showing how many non-TBBE speakers have been caught thanks to all these measures. This will be published in the form of a so-called "De-Portfolio".

Whatever the outcome, the opposition parties are already pointing out that this policy will lead to an impoverISHing and future undernourISHing, possibly even a complete perISHing of English given its global status as an international means of communication. We should instead be cherISHing the new lexical innovations that non-TBBE-speakers offer - the SOONak the better.

## New Year's Resolution

Let us hope that the net-zero approach under discussion will also be fully adopted by the British electorate in the New Year, which might then lead to a Resolution that would eliminate the present non-conciliaTORY approach and consign the perpetrators of the continuous, sometimes inflammaTORY attacks on social and linguistic equity to the his- (or hers-)TORY books.

*I wish everybody a peaceful and  
successful New Year, and hope our  
paths will cross!*  
*Geoff*