You will have to compare the thought of two philosophers on a philosophical question, and then position yourself personally in relation to this question based on the elements acquired in the comparison. The purpose of this document is to provide you with the essential tools to carry out this test. Formal structure of the comparative dissertation Introduction (a) The subject brought: introduction announcing the question (b) The subject asked: 1. Wording of the question 2. Brief description of the thesis of the two authors (c) The divided topic: announcement of the development plan Development (a) The report 1. Problematization 2. Presentation of the first thinker's answer to the question 3. Presentation of the second thinker's answer to the question (b) Benchmarking 1. Important similarities between the two philosophers 2. Important differences between the two philosophers (c) The position taken 1. Critical appreciation of philosophers' conceptions 2. Presentation of your personal position: I. First argument II. Second argument Conclusion (a) Reminder of the position of the two authors and your personal position (b) Opening the text to further reflection or deepening The report The purpose of the report is to accurately set out the concepts and arguments presented by philosophers that can help you provide a reasoned answer to the philosophical question you ask yourself in your text. In order to get off to a good start on your question, you must propose a problem, i.e. a presentation of the essential philosophical issues of your question. In other words, explain how you understand your question and why it is philosophically important. The report itself is a paragraph presenting a reasoned reformulation of the philosopher's thought on the topic under discussion. It consists in selecting and presenting the essential elements of each philosopher's reflection on the question in such a way as to suggest a faithful reflection of their reflection. You will have to write two reporting paragraphs (one for each thinker). To properly prepare your account of each philosopher, follow these steps to prepare your plan: • Step #1 : Identify the relevant parts of the philosopher's thinking in relation to your question. • Step #2: Identify important concepts related to the philosophical issue of your work. Make sure you understand the philosopher's definition of it. • Step #3: Locate the philosopher's reasoning on the issue you're concerned about, and make sure you understand the scope of each of these events. • Step #4: Synthesize the relevant concepts and arguments you have uncovered so that the philosopher's answer to your question is felt. Do not hesitate to use the technical vocabulary of the philosopher you are presenting. Benchmarking Comparative analysis consists of comparing the answers that each philosopher brings to the question that is the subject of your work in order to see what they have in common and what they differ in. It is not a question of making a catalog of all the differences and similarities between the two authors! Instead, you should insist on meaningful points of comparison, which are important in relation to the question-theme of your work. Comparative analysis must always remain focused on the philosophical problem that is the subject of the text: its ultimate objective is to feed the position on the issue (last part of the development). Here are some questions you may ask yourself when establishing relevant points of comparison between two philosophers: (a) From the point of view of problematization : • Do the authors understand the philosophical problem in question in the same way? If not, what explains the difference in their understandings ? • Do they formulate the problem in the same way, using the same concepts? • Do they give equal importance to this problem in their thinking? If not, what explains why one philosopher attributes more/less importance to it than the other? • Do they see the same method of solving this problem? If not, how do their methods differ? (b) From a conceptualization perspective: • Do the two philosophers share the definitions of the important concepts around which the problem turns? If not, what characterizes their respective definitions? • By what arguments do the authors manage to base their definitions of important concepts? (c) From the point of view of argumentation : • Do the authors share a common thesis, or do they tend to operate? • In the case of a common thesis, are the arguments put forward in support of the thesis the same? If not, what makes them different? • In the case of opposing theses, what exactly differentiates the theses of the two authors? What arguments support these different theses? • In the case of opposing theses, can we nevertheless observe similarities between these theses? • Is the style of argumentation of the two authors similar? If not, what characterizes them? The position taken The position consists in providing a reasoned answer to the philosophical problem that is the subject of your work based on the comparative analysis you have conducted between the two philosophers. (a) Critical appreciation of philosophers' thinking : What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of each conception? What elements could you agree with? What do you have reservations about? Develop your thinking around each philosopher by making sure to justify every judgment you make with an argument. (b) Taking your personal position: answer your question directly (thesis training ), and develop two (2) distinct arguments to support your position. These arguments may be directly inspired by or oppose the thinking of philosophers; but you must take them into account in your argument. To make sure, follow one of three argumentative strategies: a. Support the design of one of the two authors presented; b. Refute the position of the two thinkers to make room for your own thesis (which must then be different from theirs); c. Concede certain elements established by philosophers and build your arguments about ideas that you find acceptable, interesting, etc., while explaining why you reject those you reject. Do not hesitate to ask your teacher for the help of the preparation of your plan! Suggested themes The following questions all deal with one or the other of the important issues in philosophical anthropology. Each is inspired by the work of at least one of the thinkers we have studied. These questions all represent fruitful themes that can be approached through several different philosophers. 1. Can you really know yourself? (Montaigne) 2. Can we learn to make better use of existence? (Montaigne) 3. Is the human being limited to his body? (Descartes) 4. Is the human being superior to other animals of nature? (Descartes) 5. Should we draw inspiration from the state of nature of the human being to ensure his future? (Rousseau) 6. Where do political inequalities between human beings come from? (Rousseau) 7. Are individuals determined by their belonging to a social class? (Marx) 8. Are today's workers alienated by the capitalist mode of production? (Marx) 9. Is the meaning of life that of a will to power (will-live)? (Nietzsche) 10. Is Western civilization decadent? (Nietzsche) 11. Is the human being determined by his impulses? (Freud) 12. Is there an objective psychic normality in the human being? (Freud)