

Concours d'ADJOINT ADMINISTRATIF TERRITORIAL de 1^{ère} classe 2008

Mercredi 17 septembre 2008

ÉPREUVE FACULTATIVE D'ADMISSION : LANGUE VIVANTE

TRADUCTION SANS DICTIONNAIRE D'UN TEXTE RÉDIGÉ EN : ANGLAIS

Durée : 1 heure

Coefficient : 1

Manners squad will force you to give up your seat

There was a time in Japan when courtesy was second nature. If you saw an elderly person, a pregnant woman or somebody on crutches, you would leap up and offer them your seat. These days you pretend to be asleep and avoid eye contact at all costs.

But the spiralling decline of train-seat etiquette may be about to end with the arrival of an elite, fearless and impeccably polite "manners squadron" to be unleashed on the Yokohama underground network in an attempt to avert a breakdown of the "Japanese way".

The creation of the squadron has been welcomed by prominent proponents of the theory that Japanese politeness is waning. Taizo Kato, a psychologist at Waseda University, said that the "Smile manner" squadron symbolises the collapse of the Japanese mentality and shows that we have reached a point where citizens are not aware of basic human manners.

The unit's mission is simple: to patrol the length of the train and make sure that any seats –highly prized on Japan's packed commuter line– are vacated by the young and offered to those who need them.

The officers will have no legal authority, no powers to fine and virtually no practical sanction at all. Their success will depend entirely on their capacity to charm or shame the sitter into becoming a stander.

Adapted from an article in THE TIMES Wednesday March 19 2008