

## SECTION EUROPÉENNE ET DE LANGUES ORIENTALES (SELO) PROGRAMME INTER ACADÉMIQUE D'HISTOIRE – GÉOGRAPHIE APPLICABLE À LA RENTRÉE 2021

### NEW YORK CITY, A GLOBAL CITY

Le sujet s'inscrit dans le programme de géographie de terminale : **THÈME 2** – Dynamiques territoriales, coopérations et tensions dans la mondialisation – **G3** – Des territoires inégalement intégrés dans la mondialisation.

#### Extrait du programme de Terminale générale, BO n°8 du 25 juillet 2019 :

« La mondialisation contemporaine conduit à l'affirmation ou à la réaffirmation de puissances et à l'émergence de nouveaux acteurs. Les territoires, quelle que soit l'échelle considérée (États, régions infra-et supra-étatiques, métropoles...) ont inégalement accès à la mondialisation. »

#### Accompagnements des programmes (extraits) :

« L'objectif du thème 2 est de comprendre que la mondialisation, en tant que processus sélectif et cumulatif, hiérarchise les territoires à différentes échelles. »

« La compréhension des facteurs de différenciation territoriale peut se fonder sur l'analyse des caractéristiques d'un territoire (notamment en termes d'équipements, d'infrastructures et des paramètres sociospatiaux) et des stratégies des acteurs en présence, qu'ils soient publics ou privés. »

#### Connaissances fondamentales attendues (voir programme):

Global Power City Index, Northern Megalopolis, a major economic, financial, cultural, touristic, political power.

TNCs, headquarters, hub, worldwide influence, a large media centre, a cosmopolitan city, social inequalities and segregation, adapting to future and current challenges.

**The following plan can be established (it is a proposal and in no case an obligation)**

In the introduction, students share their knowledge and/or representation of New York City, which could lead to a mind map of New York City's attributes -with some question marks- bringing the class to develop and propose the following inquiry questions: What makes NYC a global city? What challenges does NYC face?

#### I- What makes New York City a Global City?

Starting from the presentation and study of two definitions of a **Global City** — the one from Saskia Sassen and the one from the **Global Power City Index** (GPCI)— students will apply their understanding of this notion to New York City. Sassen's work emphasizes that global cities are large urban centers, pivotal **nodes** in the global economic system, influencing global

flows of capital, information, and people. In contrast, the Global Power City Index (GPCI) evaluates a city's comprehensive power to attract people, capital, and enterprises from around the world. Sassen's work aims to understand the role of cities in the global economy, while the GPCI aims to rank cities based on their overall attractiveness and competitiveness.

The teacher can select a range of three documents (a written text, a map, and a photo) from scientific sources and ask the students to identify and classify elements matching one or more of the six GPCI criteria. To develop students' understanding of a geographical approach, they might also recognize, using the 5Ws and H framework (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How?), who are the **actors**, what the challenges are, where and when it takes place, and why and how it is happening. The teacher can either complete the missing bits or have the students work in groups studying a few sets of mini case studies (three documents each).

Students should retain that New York City is a global city thanks to its leading influence on key sectors at the world scale: **Economy, Politics, Culture**, and Innovation, thanks to a variety of actors and a unique set of **Communication and Infrastructure** networks. As such, New York City is part of the **Global Network of Metropolitan Areas** (AMM, Dollfus). To a lesser extent, New York City is also a global city thanks to its Livability and Environment. If time permits, it would be interesting to get the students to think about New York City's power at other **scales**, leading to questions about whether its influence results in uniformity or differences, leading to **disparities** as well as changing dynamics between central areas and their surrounding peripheral regions, within the BosWash region (**megalopolis**). This should help transition to Part II, looking at the challenges New York City has been facing so far.

The following table could be used to **focus on two or three aspects** of NYC's global power.

GPCI criteria	INFRA URBAN SPACES	ACTORS	FLOWS and INTERCONNECTIONS at a global scale	FLOWS and INTERCONNECTIONS at a NATIONAL SCALE	GPCI ranking
Economy	Wall Street, Middletown, Manhattan, Financial District	NYSE, TNCs (Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase), financial institutions, major law firms	<b>Financial transactions:</b> NYSE handles an average daily trading volume of over \$200 billion. NYSE and NASDAQ, world's largest stock exchanges by market capitalization and trading activity <b>Trade and Commerce:</b> Port of New York and New Jersey handles over 7 million TEU annually – ranked <b>Foreign Direct Investment:</b> attracts billion annually	<b>Gross Metropolitan Product:</b> \$1,4 trillion (1st in the US) <b>Financial Services</b> represented nearly a third of New York State's total output in 2022 <b>Trade and Commerce:</b> NYC ranked 3rd in total exports and 2nd in total imports in the US. NYC ports are ranked 3rd in the US	1st
Research and Development	Silicon Alley (Tech corridor), Universities campuses (Columbia University, NYU)	Universities, Tech Star-Ups, Research Institutions and innovations hubs (Cornell Tech; Barclay Rise)	<b>Academic institutions:</b> Columbia University, NYU attract over 100,000 international students and researchers annually <b>Innovation hubs:</b> GAFAM have significant presence in Manhattan, leveraging the city's talent pool and global connectivity to drive their international strategies; Barclays Rie, the fintech innovation hub supports startups focused on cybersecurity, AI, big data, connecting them to global markets	<b>R + D:</b> ranked 4th in the US in terms of funding. National Workforce contribution: NYC 's RD workforce represents 10% of the national RD workforce	2nd
Cultural Interaction	Broadway, Museum Mile (The Met, MoMa), Lincoln Center, Times Square	Cultural institutions, theaters, art galleries, International Festival (Tribeca Film Festival), diverse communities	<b>Tourism:</b> 66 million visitors (2019), with international tourists accounting for 13 million of these <b>Media and Entertainment:</b> home to the New York Times and NBC, producing content consumed globally and influencing international culture <b>Diversity, Cosmopolitan City:</b> 800 languages spoken, top one linguistically diverse city	<b>Museums:</b> Metropolitan Museum of Art is the largest museum in the US <b>Books:</b> NYC is the headquarters of the "Big Five" publishing companies (HarperCollins) New York Public Library is the second largest in the US	1st
Livability	Central Park, Brooklyn Park, High Line, various neighborhoods (Greenwich Village, Upper East side)	City Government, Health Care providers, educational institutions, (public and private), community organizations	<b>Health Care:</b> has the largest public healthcare system; NY Presbyterian Hospital is ranked in the top hospitals globally; Mount Sinai Health System is a leader in medical research	<b>Housing cost:</b> median rent prices significantly above the national average <b>Health Care system:</b> NYC launched an innovative and ambitious program to offer healthcare to united populations; its partnership approach with CBO (Community Based organizations) and scale are unique nationally	7th
Environment	Green Spaces (Central Park, Prospect Park), waterfront, urban farms, green buildings	NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability, Environmental NGOs (Natural Resources Defense Council), community gardens, green building councils	<b>Sustainability Projects:</b> NYC has committed over \$1billion to watershed protection and pollution prevention programs to maintain high water quality. Its water supply is one of the most extensive in the world in top-tier journals	<b>NYC Green New Deal:</b> Leading the largest-ever state investment in renewable energy in the US, aiming at reducing gas emissions to the equivalent of 22 million cars	10th
Accessibility	Major Airports (Newark JFK, LaGuardia.), Penn Station, Grand Central Terminal, subway and bus networks	Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, airlines and transportation planners	NYC has a mixed record compared to other US cities with its subway less accessible than in other major US cities	NYC's airports handle over 130 million passengers annually; JFK is number 1 in the US for international flights (61 million passengers in 2019, with 33 million international travelers).	1st

*If time allows, students could draw a sketch (skill: create graphic and cartographic productions as part of an analysis)*

**II- What challenges has New York City been facing as a result of its Global city status and what has been the city’s response(s)?**

Starting from a global issue impacting New York City, such as **climate change**, a local fact such as a press article on the income gap between the wealthiest and the poorest (socio-economic disparities, **gentrification**), or a video from the non-profit organization Robin Hood about the housing crisis in New York City, the teacher will bring students to think about the many challenges New York City has been facing and/or may face as a global city. The teacher might decide to have students work in pairs on specific case studies based on the global city definition used in PART 1, such as the GPCI framework, and share their findings on a collaborative document such as the one below.

Students should retain that New York City, to keep up with its global city status, has had to constantly innovate in all key sectors, whether it is on the economic front with tax incentives, or on the environmental aspect with numerous initiatives to deal with climate change challenges (**Mitigation, Adaptation, Environmental Transition**). The same approach and process can be analyzed at the national scale, against competing cities such as Boston and Washington within the Northeast Megalopolis. However, at a local scale, New York City has been struggling between pushing for further development despite the socio-economic disparities that may generate or choosing more inclusive-oriented policies to protect its inhabitants; both being not mutually exclusive.

The following table could be used to **focus on two or three aspects** of NYC’s challenges.

	LOCAL SCALE	NATIONAL SCALE	GLOBAL SCALE
Economy	<p><b>Challenge:</b> one of the largest income gaps in the US. The wealthiest 20% earn more than 40 times what the lowest 20M earn</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> City Government, Non Profit organization (Robin Hood Foundation)</p> <p><b>Spaces:</b> Bronx and Brooklyn</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b> keeping up with the competition from Boston, Washington DC and Philadelphia</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> State Governor, major banks, CEOs of Fortune 500</p> <p><b>Spaces:</b> Financial District, Midtown Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens, BosWash</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> developing comparative advantages projects</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b> keeping up with global competition</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> New York City Industrial Development Agency (NYCIDA)</p> <p><b>Spaces:</b> Wall Street, Middletown Manhattan, Financial District, AMM (Dollfus)</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> tax incentives to attract global investors (sales tax exemption, property tax abatement, mortgage tax reduction)</p>
Research and Development	<p><b>Challenges:</b> R&amp;D growth has had some negative impact locally</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> Tech companies, real estate, Government agencies, environment group (NY League of Conservation Voters)</p> <p><b>Spaces:</b> The Brooklyn Navy Yard hub led to the displacement of long-time residents; gentrification, pollution reports from industrial activities</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> Ensuring new development includes affordable housing, Enforcing stricter environmental standards</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b> funding competition, talent retention</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> NYCEDC and New York State; Federal state (Department of Defense), Industry leaders, Ivy League universities</p> <p><b>Spaces:</b> NYC, Albany Solution: Albany Nanotech Complex (primary hub for semiconductor research and development)</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b> keeping up with global competition</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> City Mayor, Columbia University, Rockefeller University, Montefiore Einstein, New York Stem Cell Foundation</p> <p><b>Spaces:</b> Silicon Alley (Tech corridor), Universities campuses (Columbia University, NYU), Ivy League universities, Top 10 World Universities and Tech Hubs</p> <p><b>Solutions:</b> LifeSciNYC a \$500 million commitment to establish NYC as the public health capital of the world</p>
Environment	<p><b>Challenge:</b> air pollution, affecting public health</p> <p><b>Space:</b> in particular Manhattan</p> <p><b>Actor:</b> Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice</p> <p><b>Solution:</b> PlaNYC and OneNYC (promoting cleaner energy, enhancing public transportation, increasing green</p>	<p><b>Challenge:</b> combined sewer overflows during heavy rainfall, runoff from industrial sites carries pollutants into waterways</p> <p><b>Space:</b> Catskill/Delaware, Hudson River estuary</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> New York State Department of Environmental</p>	<p><b>Challenges:</b> climate change (extreme heat including urban Heat Islands, Flooding and Sea Level Rise, Air and Water Quality)</p> <p><b>Location:</b> along the coastline, lower Manhattan (Financial District), Brooklyn (Williamsburg), Queens (Long Island City), Staten Island, The Bronx</p> <p><b>Actors:</b> Local, State and Federal Governments,</p>

	spaces)	Conservation, <b>Solutions:</b> Water Quality Improvement Project, New York City Watershed Protection Program	Non-Profit Organizations, Private Sector and Community Groups <b>Solutions:</b> several initiatives among them The Big U (inspired by the Dutch model of living with the water; flood resilience projects) and Seawall and Floodgate Systems (giant sea gates across New York Harbor to protect against storm surges)
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To conclude, the teacher might lead the students to elaborate a typology about “New York City, a Global City?”), with a PART ONE, New York City Global City Characteristics (Area symbols, Linear Symbols, Point Symbols) at the all scales (for infra urban spaces: more or less integrated), and for PART TWO, the Challenges Being Faced by New York City (for infra urban spaces: more or less challenged according to the focus topics chosen by the teacher).

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### II- FACING CHALLENGES

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