

EXAMEN : BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL	SESSION 2011
ÉPREUVE : Évaluation spécifique de langue en section européenne	
PHYSIQUE-CHIMIE en langue ANGLAISE	SUJET N°8

Chernobyl's 'Exclusion Zone' open to tourists in 2011



On 26 April 1986, reactor # 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station, 100 km north from Kiev, blew up during a routine daily operation. Nearly nine tons of radioactive material - 90 times as much as the Hiroshima bomb - were hurled into the sky. Winds over the following days, mostly blowing north and west, carried fallout into Belarus, as well as Russia, Poland and the Baltic region.

The radioactive fallout affected 23% of Belarus, with 4,8% of Ukrainian territory and 0,5% of Russian land exposed. About 135,00 people were evacuated from a 30-km radius around the plant, with the peripheral areas remaining at a high risk of radioactive exposure. The reactor was enclosed in a concrete-and-steel sarcophagus. Over the following years

about 600,000 people known as "the liquidators" worked on clean-up operations inside the 30-km zone.

Although scientists agree that there is no risk of the sarcophagus exploding, the status of the estimated 180 tons of radioactive material trapped inside the nuclear power plant is still unclear.

Although radiation levels in the zone are still high, flourishing wildlife means that the area is now deemed safe enough for humans.

Visitors will be escorted by guides and kept away from areas which still have high radiation levels.

If you are interested in a day tour to the site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, please read on our tour schedule.

16th December 2010

Adapted from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-1339099/Chernobyls-Reactor-4-Exclusion-Zone-open-tourists-2011.html>

1. Present and comment on this document
2. Do not forget to develop the concept in physics of "radioactivity", and "radiation level". Do you think radiation level can decrease over time?
3. Will you go to visit the site once opening, and why?