

Session 2011

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 1

Séries S et ES

Série S ou ES :
durée 3 heures – coefficient 3

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

Le sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/4 à 4/4.

'Good evening, Mr. O'Riley,' she said, in the same low, slow tone that betrayed nothing.

'Hello, Rachel. Please call me Nate.'

5 'Sit over there, Nate,' she said, pointing to a short square stump remarkably similar to the one he'd been perched upon for the past six hours. It was in front of the hut, near a ring of rocks where she made her fires. He sat, his rear still numb. (...)

'I would invite you into my home,' she said. 'But it would not be proper.'

'No problem here.' (...)

'What did you do today?'

10 'Oh, we met with the chief, had breakfast at his table, hiked back to the first village, got the boat, worked on it, set up our tent behind the chief's hut, then waited for you.'

'The chief liked you?'

'Evidently. He wants us to stay.'

15 'What do you think of my people?'

'They're all naked.'

'They always have been.'

'How long did it take to get accustomed to it?'

20 'I don't know. A couple of years. It gradually grows on you, like everything else. I was homesick for three years, and there are times now when I would like to drive a car, eat a pizza, and see a good movie. But you adjust.'

'I can't begin to imagine. (...) Sorry. Can we talk about Troy?' The shadows were falling fast. They were ten feet apart and could still see each other, but the blackness would soon separate them.

25 'Suit yourself,' she said, with a weary air of resignation.

'Troy had three wives and six children, six that we knew about. You, of course, were a surprise. He didn't like the other six, but evidently was quite fond of you. He left them virtually nothing, just enough to cover their debts. Everything else was given to Rachel Lane, born out of wedlock on November 2, 1954, at Catholic Hospital in New Orleans, to a woman named Evelyn Cunningham, now deceased. That Rachel would be you.'

The words fell heavy in the thick air; there were no other sounds. Her silhouette absorbed them, and, as usual, she thought before she spoke. 'Troy wasn't fond of me. We hadn't seen each other in twenty years.'

35 'That's not important. He left his fortune to you. No-one had a chance to ask why because he jumped out of a window after signing his last testament. I have a copy for you.'

'I don't want to see it.'

40 'And I have some other papers which I'd like you to sign, maybe tomorrow, first thing, when we can see. Then I can be on my way.'

'What kind of papers?'

'Legal stuff, all for your benefit.'

'You're not concerned about my benefit.' Her words were much quicker and sharper, and Nate was stung by the rebuke.

45 'That's not true,' he replied weakly.

‘Sure it is. You don’t know what I want, or need, or like, or dislike.

You don’t know me, Nate, so how can you know what will or will not benefit me?’

50 ‘Okay, you’re right. I don’t know you, you don’t know me. I’m here on behalf of your father’s estate. It is still very hard for me to believe that I am actually sitting in the dark outside a hut, in a primitive Indian village, lost in a swamp the size of Colorado, in a third world country I’ve never seen before, talking to a very lovely missionary who just happens to be the richest woman in the world. Yes, you’re right, I don’t know what benefits you. But it is very important for you to see these papers, and to sign them.’

‘I’m not signing anything.’

55 ‘Oh, come on.’

‘I have no interest in your papers.’

‘You haven’t seen them yet.’

‘Tell me about them.’

60 ‘They’re formalities. My firm has to probate your father’s estate. All of the heirs named in his will must inform the court, either in person or in writing, that they have been notified of the proceedings, and have been given the opportunity to take part. It’s required by the law.’

‘And if I refuse?’

65 ‘Honestly, I haven’t thought about that. It’s so routine that everybody simply cooperates.’

‘So I submit myself to the court in...?’

‘Virginia. The probate court there takes jurisdiction over you, even though you’re absent.’

‘I’m not sure if I like that idea.’

70 ‘Fine, then hop in the boat and we’ll go to Washington.’

‘I’m not leaving.’ And with that a long silence ensued, a pause made even quieter by the darkness that now engulfed them.

John GRISHAM, *The Testament*, 1999

I.COMPREHENSION

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

Les candidats traiteront le sujet **sur la copie qui leur sera fournie** en respectant **l’ordre des questions** et en faisant apparaître la **numérotation** (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant, ex. : 2. a/- voir **en particulier les questions 2, 3, 4, 7 et 8**). Ils composeront des phrases complètes chaque fois qu’il leur est demandé de rédiger des réponses. Le **nombre de mots** indiqué constitue une exigence minimale. En l’absence d’indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée. **Les citations** seront limitées aux éléments **pertinents** et précédées de la mention de la ligne.

1. List the characters who are present in the scene. (Give their full names)
2. Focus on the female character.
 - a/ In your own words, say what you know about her (parents' names, date and place of birth, occupation).
 - b/ What does she learn about her financial situation?
 - c/ Pick out three elements to describe the place in which she lives.
 - d/ Re-read lines 7 to 21 and explain how she feels about the place (30 words).
3. Focus on the male character.
 - a/ What do you think his job is? Justify with two quotations.
 - b/ Explain in your own words what he is doing here (30 words).
4. True or false? Justify by quoting from the text
 - a/ Troy divorced several times.
 - b/ He had seven children.
 - c/ The woman felt close to her father.
 - d/ All Troy's children became rich after his death.
5. Using your answers to question 4, what conclusions can you draw about the relationship between Troy and the female character? (30 words)
6. Focus on lines 41 to 47. What does the word "benefit" mean for each character?
7. a/ Concentrating on lines 54 to the end, choose which adjective(s) can be applied
 - i) to the woman ii) to the man. Justify your choice by quoting from the text. (Note that not all adjectives may apply.)

submissive / greedy / excited / strong-willed / insistent

 - b/ l. 64-65. Explain why the male character is puzzled.
 - c/ What does the woman decide to do in the end? What element/s of the text justify/ies her final decision?
8. a/ At what time of the day does the scene take place?
 - b/ Describe the evolution of light as time goes by. Justify with two quotes.
 - c/ What is the symbolism of the author's treatment of light?
9. Translate from line 10 ("*Oh, we met with ...*") to line 19 ("*A couple of years.*")

II. EXPRESSION.

Choose subject 1 or subject 2.

Subject 1:

One month later, a letter by Troy was found, explaining his decision. Write this letter. (300 words)

Subject 2:

Is inheriting a fortune a blessing or a burden? (300 words)