BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2010

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE **1**

Séries ES-S

Durée de l'épreuve 3 heures – Coefficient : 3

L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.
Ce sujet comporte 3 pages numérotées de 1/3 à 3/3.

Compréhension et traduction	10 points
Expression	10 points

As Austin Forbes, the President of the United States, walked toward United States Senator Raymond Francis Colby he passed through the rays of sunlight streaming through the high French windows of the Oval Office, creating the impression that God was spotlighting a chosen son. Had he noticed, the diminutive Chief Executive would have appreciated the vote
5   of confidence from above. The results of his earthly polls[1] were not nearly as complimentary.

'Good to see you, Ray', Forbes said. 'You know Kelly Bendelow, don't you?'

'Kelly and I have met,' Colby said, remembering the indepth interview the President's troubleshooter[2] had conducted just two weeks before.

Senator Colby sat in the chair the President indicated and glanced out the east
10 windows toward the rose garden. The President sat in an old armchair that had graced his Missouri law office and followed him up the ladder of power to the Oval Office. He looked pensive.

'How's Ellen?' Forbes asked.

'She's fine.'

15 'And are you fine? You're in good health?'

'Excellent health, Mr President. I had a thorough physical last month,' Colby answered, knowing that the FBI would have furnished Forbes with his doctor's report.

'No personal problems? Everything's going well at home? Your finances are sound?'

'Ellen and I are celebrating our thirty-second anniversary next month.'

20 Forbes stared hard at Colby. The good old boy vanished and the hard-nosed politician who had carried forty-eight states in the last election took his place.

'I can't afford another fiasco like this Hutchings thing,' Forbes said. 'I'm telling you this in confidence, Ray. She lied to me. Hutchings sat where you're sitting and lied. Then that reporter for the *Post* found out and…'

25 Forbes let the thought trail off. Everyone in the room was painfully aware of the blow that had been dealt to Forbes' prestige when the Senate voted against confirming the nomination of Mabel Hutchings.

'Is there anything in your past that can cause us problems, Ray? Anything at all? When you were CEO[3] of Marlin Steel did you ever pay a corporate bribe[4]? Did you use
30 marijuana at Princeton or Harvard Law? Did you knock up some girl in high school?'

Colby knew the questions were not ridiculous. The aspirations of Presidential hopefuls and Supreme Court nominees had run aground on just such rocky shoals.

'There will be no surprises, Mr President.'

The silence in the Oval Office grew. Then, Forbes spoke.

35 'You know why you're here, Ray. If I nominate you to be Chief Justice[5] of the United States Supreme Court, will you accept?'

'Yes, Mr President.'

Forbes grinned. The tension in the room evaporated.

'We make the announcement tomorrow. You'll make a great Chief Justice.'

40 'I'm indebted to you,' Colby said, not trusting himself to say more. He had known the President would make the offer when he was summoned to the White House, but that did not keep him from feeling as light as a free-floating cloud.

Phillip Margolin, *Gone, but not Forgotten?,* Time Warner, 1993.

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[1] a poll: a survey: an investigation of people's opinions done by asking them questions.
[2] troubleshooter : *conseiller particulier.*
[3] CEO: Chief Executive Officer (= *PDG*)
[4] bribe: an illegal gift of money to make somebody do something.
[5] justice: judge.

I – COMPREHENSION

1. Where does the scene take place (city – house – room)? Quote from the text.

2. Identify the characters in the text. Who is present? Who is only mentioned?

3. Describe the effect of the light in the room and say how the narrator interprets it. *(20 words)*

4. What is special about the "*old armchair*" (l. 10)?

5. Forbes asks Colby a series of questions. List **four** different topics mentioned and quote the text to justify.

6. Answer in your own words (one or two sentences)
    a) What is Forbes's goal?
    b) How does Colby react to his questions?

7. In your opinion what is "this Hutchings thing" (l. 22) and what was the problem? (40 words)

8. Show how the atmosphere progressively changes in the text. *(60 words)*

9. Translate into French from "*There will be no surprises …*" (l. 33) to "*The tension in the room evaporated.*" (l. 38)

II – EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez l'un des deux sujets au choix. (*250 words*)

1. Imagine that Colby is not being completely honest in the interview. You are a reporter who discovers the truth about his past. Write the newspaper article for the *Post.*

2. What makes a good political leader? Explain your point of view giving examples to support what you say.