

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2011

ANGLAIS LV1

SÉRIE ES - S

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient : 3

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

Dès que le sujet vous est remis assurez-vous qu'il est complet.

Ce sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées de 1 à 4.

BARÈME

COMPRÉHENSION	10 POINTS
EXPRESSION	10 POINTS

When I was growing up, we never got to go to places like Gatlinburg. My father would rather have given himself brain surgery with a Black and Decker drill than spend an hour in such a place. He had just two criteria for gauging the worth of a holiday attraction: was it educational, and was it free? Gatlinburg was patently
5 neither of these. His idea of a holiday heaven was a museum without an admission charge. My dad was the most honest man I ever met, but vacations blinded him to his principles. When I had pimples scattered across my face and stubble on my chin he was still swearing at ticket booths that I was eight years old. He was so cheap on vacations that it always surprised me he didn't make us sift in litterbins for our lunch.
10 So Gatlinburg to me was a heady experience. I felt like a priest let loose in Las Vegas with a sockful of quarters. All the noise and glitter, and above all the possibilities for running through irresponsible sums of money in a short period, made me giddy.

I wandered through the crowds, and hesitated at the entrance to the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum. I could sense my father, a thousand miles away, beginning to rotate slowly in his grave as I looked at the posters. They told me that inside I would see a man who could hold three billiard balls in his mouth at once, a two-headed calf, a human unicorn with a horn protruding from his forehead and hundreds of other riveting oddities from all over the globe collected by the tireless Robert
20 Ripley and crated back to Gatlinburg for the edification of discerning tourists such as myself. The admission fee was \$5. The pace of my father's rotating quickened as I looked into my wallet, and then sped to a whirring blur as I fished out a five-dollar bill and guiltily handed it to the unsmiling woman in the ticket booth. 'What the hell,' I thought as I went inside, 'at least it will give the old man some exercise.'

25 Well, it was superb. I know \$5 is a lot of money for a few minutes' diversion. I could just see my father and me standing outside on the sidewalk bickering. My father would say 'No, it's a big gyp. For that kind of money, you could buy something that would give you years of value.'

30 'Like what – a box of carpet tiles?' I would reply with practised sarcasm. 'Oh, please, Dad, just this once don't be cheap. There's a two-headed calf in there.'

'No, son, I'm sorry.'

35 'I'll be good forever. I'll take out the garbage every day until I get married. Dad, there is a guy in there who can hold three billiard balls in his mouth at once. There is a *human unicorn* in there. Dad, we could be throwing away the chance of a lifetime here.'

But he would not be moved. 'I don't want to hear any more about it. Now let's all get in the car and drive 175 miles to the Molasses Point Historical Battlefield. You'll learn lots of worthwhile things about the little-known American war with Ecuador of 1802 and it won't cost me a penny.'

40 So I went through the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum and I savoured every artifact and tasteless oddity. It was outstanding. I mean, honestly, where else are you going to see a replica of Columbus's flagship, the Santa Maria, made entirely of chicken bones? And how can you possibly put a price on seeing an eight-foot-long model of the Circus Maximus constructed of sugar cubes, or the death-mask of John
45 Dillinger, or a room made entirely of matchsticks by one Reg Polland of Manchester, England (well done, Reg; Britain is proud of you)? We are talking lasting memories here. I was pleased to note that England was further represented by, of all things, a chimney-pot, circa 1940. Believe it or not. It was all wonderful – clean, nicely presented, sometimes even believable – and I spent a happy hour there.

Bill Bryson, *The Lost Continent*, 1990

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). Ils composeront des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqué constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement (moins de 20 mots) à la question posée.

COMPRÉHENSION

1. In what town and country does the scene take place?
2. Choose the best adjective to describe the narrator's feelings about the town he is in:

depressed – excited – disappointed – terrified

Quote from the text to justify your choice.

3. At the time of the narration, is the narrator's father dead or alive? Quote two elements from the text which prove this.
4. Read lines 1-3: "My father would rather have given himself brain surgery with a Black and Decker drill than spend an hour in such a place."
Explain in your own words what the narrator means in this sentence. (40 words)
5. Explain in what way the father's principles changed when the family was on holiday. Give an example using your own words.
6. The narrator and his father had different ideas about the holidays spent together. Compare and contrast their different points of view. (30 words)
7. Focus on lines 14 to 24. What is specific about the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum? Give as much information as you can about it. (30 words)
8. Read lines 25-35, the narrator imagines a conversation with his father. What arguments does he use to convince his dad? (30 words)
9. Choose the adjective that best defines the tone of the text:

serious – philosophical – humorous – tragic

Quote a minimum of three passages in the text to justify your choice.

10. a) Does the narrator find it easy to make a decision to visit the place? Give two quotes.
b) Explain why he has this reaction. (30 words)
11. a) Focus on the last paragraph of the text. Does the narrator enjoy his visit? Explain in your own words.
b) What do you think the tone of that passage implies about the narrator's appreciation of this place? (30 words)

EXPRESSION

Choose **one** of the following subjects: **subject 1 OR subject 2 (a + b)**.
300 words approximately. Give the number of words.

Subject 1:

To what extent does your family influence your lifestyle and choices? (300 words)

Subject 2 (a + b):

- a) What is your ideal holiday? (150 words)
- b) After his visit, the narrator sends a letter to a member of his family to tell him / her about his experience and his feelings. Write the narrator's letter. (150 words)