

**BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL**

**ANGLAIS**

Langue vivante 1

**Séries ES-S**

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient : 3

**L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.**

**Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.  
Ce sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/4 à 4/4**

**Répartition des points**

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

I'd never met anyone quite like Alicia's mum and dad before I started going out with Alicia, and at first I thought they were dead cool – I can even remember wishing that my mum and dad were like them. Alicia's dad is like fifty or something, and he listens to hip-hop. He doesn't like it much, I don't think, but he feels he should give it a chance, and he doesn't mind the language and the violence. He's got grey hair that he gets Alicia's mum to shave back [...] and he wears a stud. He teaches literature at a college, and she teaches drama, when she's not being a councilor. Or she teaches people to teach drama, something like that. She has to go into lots of different schools and talks to teachers. They're all right, I suppose, Robert and Andrea, and they were really friendly at first. It's just that they think I'm stupid. They never say as much, and they try and treat me as if I'm not. But I can tell they do. I wouldn't mind, but I'm smarter than Alicia. I'm not showing off or being cocky; I just know I am. When we went to see films, she didn't understand them, and she never got what anyone was laughing at in *The Simpsons*, and I had to help her with her maths. Her mum and dad helped her with her English. They still thought she was going to go to college to do something or other, and all the model stuff was just her going through a rebellious phase. As far as they were concerned, she was a genius and I was this nice dim kid she was hanging out with. They acted as if I was really scummy (1), but they weren't going to officially disapprove of me because that wouldn't be cool.

At that family lunch, when I was invited because I was part of the family, I was just sitting there minding my own business when her dad asked me what I was going to do after my GCSEs (2).

'Not everybody is academic, Robert', said Alicia's mum quickly.

You see how it worked? She was trying to protect me, but what she was trying to protect me from was a question about whether I had a future at all. I mean, everyone does something after their GCSEs, don't they? Even if you sit at home watching daytime TV for the rest of your life, it's a future of sorts. But that was their attitude with me – don't mention the future, because I didn't have one. And then we all had to pretend that not having a future was OK. That's what Alicia's mum should have said. 'Not everybody has a future, Robert.'

'I know not everybody is academic. I was just asking him what he wanted to do,' said Robert.

'He's going to do art and design at college,' said Alicia.

'Oh,' said her dad. 'Good. Excellent.'

'You're good at art, are you, Sam?' her mum said.

'I'm all right. I'm just worried about if we have to do essays and stuff at college.'

'You're not so good at English?'

'Not at writing it, no. Or speaking it. I'm fine at all the rest.'

That was supposed to be a joke.

'It's just a matter of confidence,' said her mum. 'You haven't had the same advantages as a lot of people.'

'I didn't know what to say to that? I have my own bedroom, a mum who's in work and who likes reading and who gets on my case if I haven't done my homework...'

To be honest, I don't really know how many more advantages I could use. Even my dad not being around was a good thing, because he's not into education at all. I mean, he wouldn't actually stop me trying to study, but...

Actually, maybe that's not true. It was always a thing between him and Mum. She was desperate to go to college, and he's a plumber, and he's always made decent money, and there was this thing going on between them, because Mum reckoned he felt inferior and tried to cover it up by telling her what a waste of time it was getting qualifications. I don't know. As far as people like Alicia's parents are concerned, you're a bad person if you don't read and study, and as far as people like my dad are concerned, you're a bad person if you do. It's all mad, isn't it? It's not reading and whatever that makes you good or bad. It's whether you rape people, or get addicted to crack and go out mugging (3). I don't know why they all get themselves into such a stew.

Nick Hornby, *Slam*, Penguin Books, 2007

(1) - scummy : dirty, unpleasant or nasty

(2) - GCSEs : secondary school exams

(3) - mugging : attacking and robbing

## I – COMPREHENSION

### 1. THE CHARACTERS

- 1.1. Identify the characters who are present or mentioned in the text.
- 1.2. How are they connected?
- 1.3. Say what you know about their respective jobs or occupations.

### 2. THE SCENE

- 2.1. Say where and when the scene takes place.
- 2.2. What is the topic of conversation?

### 3. THE TEENAGERS' PLANS

- 3.1. What are Alicia's plans for the future? Answer in your own words. You may also use words from the text.
- 3.2. Say what Sam's plans are.

### 4. THE ATTITUDES

- 4.1. Say how Sam's parents react to his plans.
- 4.2. Say how Alicia's parents react to her plans.
- 4.3. How do Alicia's parents behave towards Sam? Quote from the text to illustrate your answer.
- 4.4. How do they consider him? Quote from the text to illustrate your answer.

### 5. INTERPRETATION

- 5.1. How would you characterize Alicia's parents' attitude towards Sam?
- 5.2. What are the two families' views on studying?
- 5.3. At the beginning of the text the narrator says :  
" [...] at first I thought they were dead cool." (line 2)  
Explain how Sam's opinion of Alicia's parents evolves from the beginning to the end of the text.
- 5.4. Lines 46/47: "It's not reading and whatever that makes you good or bad".  
Explain what really matters to Sam and what Sam considers as making people good or bad.

### 6. TRANSLATE

From line 1 'I'd never met anyone (...) to line 3 '(...) were like them.'

**II - EXPRESSION** : Choose one subject (250 words)

1. Talk about your plans for the future, and the necessary steps to reach your goal.
2. Imagine the conversation Alicia and her parents are having after Sam has left.
3. Should we only study subjects that lead directly to a career?