

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

ANGLAIS

SERIES ES/S

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Durée : 3 heures

Coefficient : 3

Note importante

- ◆ Les réponses doivent impérativement être portées sur la copie d'examen à entête.
- ◆ Il est inutile de recopier les questions posées. En revanche, il faudra inscrire scrupuleusement les numéros et/ ou lettres des questions de chaque exercice.
- ◆ Les réponses devront impérativement être proposées dans le même ordre que celui de la feuille de sujet.

L'usage des calculatrices et de tout dictionnaire est interdit.

COMPREHENSION	10 points
EXPRESSION	10 points

Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.

When I announced — around three weeks before my graduation — that I had been offered a trainee job at *Life*, they were horrified. I was home for the weekend in Hartford (a trip I made deliberately to break the job news to them, and also to inform them that I wouldn't be accepting Horace's marriage proposal). Ten minutes into the conversation, the emotional temperature within our household quickly hit boiling point.

5 'I am not having any daughter of mine living by herself in that venal, indecent city,' my father pronounced.

'New York is hardly indecent — and *Life* isn't exactly *Confidential*,' I said, mentioning a well-known scandal sheet of the time. 'Anyway I thought you'd be thrilled with my news. *Life* only accepts ten trainees a year. It's an incredibly prestigious offer.'

10 'Father's still right,' my mother said. 'New York is no place for a young woman without family.'

'Eric's not family?'

'Your brother is not the most moral of men,' my father said.

15 'And what does that mean?' I said angrily.

My father was suddenly flustered, but he covered up his embarrassment by saying, 'It doesn't matter what it means. What matters is the simple fact that I will not permit you to live in Manhattan.'

20 'I am twenty-two years old, Father.'

'That's not the issue.'

'You have no legal right to tell me what I can or cannot do.'

'Don't hector¹ your father,' my mother said. 'And I must tell you that you are making a dreadful mistake by not marrying Horace.'

25 'I knew you'd say that.'

'Horace is a splendid young man,' my father said.

'Horace is a very *nice* young man — with a very *nice*, dull future ahead of him.'

'You are being arrogant,' he said.

'No — just accurate. Because I will not be pushed into a life I don't want.'

30 'I am not pushing you into any life...' my father said.

'By forbidding me from going to New York, you are stopping me from taking control of my own destiny.'

'Your *destiny!*' my father said, with cruel irony. [...]

35 I stormed out of the room. I ran upstairs and fell on the bed, sobbing. Neither of my parents came up to comfort me. Nor did I expect them to. That wasn't their style. [...] On Sunday he drove me to the train station. When we arrived there he patted my arm.

'Sara, dear — I really don't like fighting with you. Though we are disappointed that you won't be marrying Horace, we do respect your decision. And if you really are that keen on journalism, I do have several contacts on the *Hartford Courant*. I don't think it would be too difficult to find you something there...'

40 'I am accepting the job offer at *Life*, Father.'

He actually turned white — something Father never did.

'If you do accept that job, I will have no choice but to cut you off.'

'That will be your loss.'

45 And I left the car.

I felt shaky all the way to New York — and more than a little scared. After all, I had directly defied my father — something I had never attempted before. Though I was trying to be dauntless and self-confident, I was suddenly terrified of the thought that I might just lose my parents. Just as I was also terrified by the thought that — if I heeded Father's wish — I would end up writing the 'Church Notes' column in the *Hartford Courant*, and ruing² the fact that I had allowed my parents to force me into a small life.

¹ to hector: to speak to someone, in an angry way

² ruing: regretting

And yes, I did believe I had a destiny. I know that probably sounds vainglorious and absurdly romantic... but at this early juncture in so-called adult life, I had reached one simple conclusion about the future: *it had possibilities* ... but only if you allowed yourself the chance to explore those possibilities. However, most of my contemporaries were falling into line, doing what was expected of them. At least fifty per cent of my class at Bryn Mawr had 55 weddings planned for the summer after they graduated. All those boys trickling home from the war were, by and large, just thinking about getting jobs, settling down. Here we were — the generation who was about to inherit all that post-war plenty, who (compared to our parents) had infinite opportunities. But instead of running with those opportunities, what did 60 most of us do? We became good company men, good housewives, good consumers. We narrowed our horizons, and trapped ourselves into small lives.

Douglas Kennedy, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, Arrow Books, 2002.

I – COMPREHENSION

1. Draw a portrait of the narrator (name, sex, age, family members, hometown).
2. When does the story take place? Choose the right answer:
 - in the late 1940s.
 - in the late 1960s.
 - in the late 1990s.Justify your answer with one quotation from the last paragraph.
3. Why does the narrator come back home? Give two different reasons in your own words. (20 words)
4. How do her parents react to these decisions? Say why in your own words. (40 words)
5. What do you learn about her personality in the dialogue? Use your own words (25 words) ; and justify with two quotations.
6. a) Line 42: "If you do accept that job, I will have no choice but to cut you off." Explain that sentence in your own words. (15 words)

b) What sort of a father is he (20 words)? Support your answer with two quotations.
7. Read from line 45 to line 50 and explain, in your own words, the inner conflict the narrator is experiencing. (30-40 words)
8. Line 54: "However, most of my contemporaries were falling into line, doing what was expected of them." Explain in your own words what young people were expected to do at that time. (30 words)

II – EXPRESSION

Choisir **un seul** des deux sujets suivants. (300 mots +/- 10 %)

1. Imagine the conversation Sara has with her brother, Eric, when she arrives in New York.
2. Would you be ready to rebel against your parents to fulfil your dream?