

Session 2006

## BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

ANGLAIS

Séries L et S

Langue Vivante 2

Série L :

Durée 3 heures – Coefficient 4

Série S :

Durée 2 heures – Coefficient 2

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

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

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Compréhension :</b> | <b>10 points</b> |
| <b>Expression :</b>    | <b>10 points</b> |

Ravi hadn't seen his cousin Sonny for years. The man lived in Bangalore<sup>1</sup>, for one thing; they had grown up four thousand miles apart. Besides, they had nothing in common. When they met they regarded each other with mutual incomprehension. But Sonny was in London for a couple of days, *en route* to somewhere or other, and none of the other family members was around to pick up some stuff he had brought over.

They had arranged to meet in the lobby of the Royal Thistle Hotel, Bayswater. Ravi spotted his cousin straightaway – a portly man in shirt-sleeves, pacing up and down and shouting into a mobile. The fellow had put on weight. Hard to imagine that he was once a playboy, bopping the night away in the Lotus Room at the Oberoi Hotel, Bangalore, in the company of Bollywood starlets. Still talking, Sonny snapped his fingers at a waiter. 'Bacardi and coke, plenty of ice!'

Ravi's heart sank. Sonny was a wheeler-dealer, a businessman of boundless energy. Ravi had forgotten how sapping<sup>2</sup> that could be for someone in a fragile state. He longed to go home.

Sonny turned. 'Ravi old chap!' He barked something into his phone and clicked it off. 'Come over here! You look terrible, you poor fellow. Overworking as usual?'

'No –'

'Don't know how you stand it, your hair's gone grey. You should try the stuff I use, Tru-Tone, I'll get you a bottle, you'll feel a new man.' Sonny snapped his fingers again and ordered Ravi a drink.

'And *you* should lose some weight,' said Ravi. 'You're storing up trouble for later.'

'Aye, aye, doc.' His cousin's face was shiny with perspiration, he had always been a sweaty man.

'Think of your heart.'

Sonny patted his chest. 'Sound as a drum.' He heaved over a carrier bag and dumped it at Ravi's feet. It said *Surinama Silk House*. 'Mangoes for you and your lady wife. Brought them from Lalit's farm – remember Lalit, your uncle's cousin? The best mangoes in Karnataka.'

Ravi watched two men cross the lobby. They fetched their keys from Reception. Suddenly, the thought of checking into a clean, empty hotel room was so seductive he nearly swooned.

'Flying to Frankfurt tomorrow,' said Sonny. 'You know Meyer Systems? They're relocating to Bangalore, to our very own Silicon Valley – these tekkies<sup>3</sup>, they have their heads screwed on, they all want a piece of the action. You wouldn't recognise the place, *yaar*<sup>4</sup>, you know how much software we're exporting? We have the satellite links, we have the know-how ...' He counted on his fingers. 'Motorola, Texas Instruments ... The world's shrunk, my friend ...'

Ravi's temples throbbed. Outside an ambulance sped by, its siren wailing. Today he had failed to revive a cardiac arrest. Asthma attack, a young man with newborn twins.

The drinks arrived. Sonny was still blathering on. Ravi took a sip of orange juice and put down his glass.

'Sonny,' he said. 'I'm having a terrible time.'

That he confided in his cousin of all people, a man not overly interested in others, took him by surprise. Once he started, however, the words gushed forth.

'Pauline's father's come to live with us, we can't get rid of him and I'm going out of my mind. Last week he set fire to the kitchen. He was boiling up his revolting

<sup>1</sup> Bangalore: the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka

<sup>2</sup> sapping: demoralizing

<sup>3</sup> tekkies: experts in technology

<sup>4</sup> *yaar*: (Indian) my friend

55 old hankies in my Le Creuset saucepan, nearly burned the house down. I can't tell you how disgusting he is.' Ravi's voice rose. 'He strains his tea through the fly-swat<sup>5</sup>, he never lifts a finger to help, he drops biscuit crumbs everywhere, I can't stand him, I can't get any sleep, Pauline and I are quarrelling all the time, sooner or later I'm going to have to move out, I can't stand it any more, I think I'm cracking up.'

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<sup>5</sup> a fly-swat: a flat object for hitting insects

Deborah Moggach, *These Foolish Things*, 2005

## NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

Les candidats traiteront le sujet sur la copie qui leur sera fournie et veilleront à :

- a) respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant, ex. 14c) ;
- b) faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne ;
- c) composer des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

## COMPRÉHENSION

1.
  - a) List the characters present in the scene.
  - b) Among them, identify the main characters.
  - c) What are their respective jobs? (10 words maximum)
  - d) How are they related? (5 words max.)
2.
  - a) In which city does the scene take place? (10 words max.)
  - b) Explain in your own words the reasons why the main characters are in this city. (15-20 words)
  - c) Where are they exactly and what are they doing there? (15-20 words)

### Focus on the passage from line 1 to line 27.

The narrator portrays Sonny through Ravi's eyes.

3. What can the reader deduce about Sonny's physical appearance in the past? Answer in your own words using elements from this passage. (25 words max.)
4. Describe each main character's physical appearance now. (20 words max.)
5. Focus on Sonny. Pick out sentences showing that:
  - a) He is noisy. (1 quotation)
  - b) He is authoritative. (1 quotation)
  - c) He is restless. (1 quotation)
  - d) He is self-confident. (1 quotation)
6. How does Ravi react to Sonny's attitude? (5 words max.)

**Focus on the passage from line 28 to 46.**

7. a) Is Ravi paying attention to Sonny's words?  
b) What is he doing? (Give three elements) (20-25 words)
  
8. What does he decide to do at the end of this passage? (10 words max.)

**Read the whole text again.**

9. Does Ravi's decision come as a surprise to the reader? Quote three elements to justify your answer.
  
10. a) Four other members of Ravi's family are mentioned.  
Among them, which one is Ravi's main concern at the time of the story?  
  
b) Choose four adjectives from the list below which best apply to that character and justify each chosen adjective with a quotation from the text.  
  
dangerous / desperate / caring / dirty /  
uncooperative / friendly / intrusive / rich.
  
- c) What incidence does that character's attitude have on Ravi's mood? (10 words max.)

### TRADUCTION

**Seuls les candidats de la série L réaliseront cet exercice.**

Traduire en français le passage de *Sonny turned*. ... (ligne 16) à ... *trouble for later* (ligne 24).

### EXPRESSION

**Les candidats de la série S choisiront de traiter l'UN des deux sujets au choix (200 mots).**

**Les candidats de la série L devront obligatoirement traiter les DEUX sujets (300 mots au total, soit environ 150 mots pour chaque sujet).**

**Sujet 1:** Ravi comes back home and decides to talk to Pauline's father. Imagine their conversation.

**Sujet 2:** To what extent have new technologies changed the world? Give examples.