

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2009

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Série **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 5 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

This idea was still on Adam's mind a few days later when Gavin took him to visit a building site. It was a scene of frenzied activity. Hundreds of men were toiling with machines to raise a massive concrete structure from the ground. It was while they were up on the top floor, both wearing hard hats, Adam beset by vertigo, that Gavin offered him a job.

5 "Nothing too big or high-powered, obviously," he said. "You're not qualified. But you could come and work at the office. I need an assistant. I could train you, show you the ropes. No, don't answer now, just think about it for a few days, all right?"

10 Gavin had made a fortune in just a few years out of property development. He'd started out up the west coast, getting involved in a marina and surf resort that had destroyed a wetlands conservation site. These days his energies were mostly focused on Cape Town. He was teamed up with people who were buying old buildings and gutting them or ripping them down and putting up shiny modern apartment blocks in their place. Some of these deals were unscrupulous and Gavin had pointed out proudly to Adam that one of their company directors was a black man who was paid a healthy retainer just to stay at home in Gugulethu while his name on the letterhead brought in legitimacy and investment. The sums of money involved were staggering.

15 More than anything, it was the idea of the money that swayed Adam. He'd never been seriously poor before and it wasn't nice. In recent years there had appeared a new phenomenon in Johannesburg: white people at the traffic lights, wearing old clothes and a hopeless air, begging. He wasn't anywhere near that state himself, but the possibility of it pulled at him with a powerful gravity. Losing everything, having nothing—the notion stirred contradictory feelings of panic and excitement.

20 So he did think about Gavin's offer. It was tempting. Later he would realise that Gavin had chosen his moment carefully: the view from the top of the construction site was heady, full of the promise of industry and power. It was only when they were back down at ground level that the real world returned. While they were walking to the car he heard his brother having a vehement conversation on his mobile phone. "Rip it all out," Gavin was saying. "All the old fittings... *ja, ja*, I've got a buyer for the stuff... no, we'll put in copper... the cheapest, I told you, it's got to look good, that's the point... I know a guy, he'll handle it... take out the silver, put copper in..."

30 A blue melancholy rolled down over Adam. Cheap fittings. Copper instead of silver. No, he couldn't do it.

Although he'd agreed to think about it for a few days, he spoke to Gavin that night. It was better to talk while the urgency was there. He felt full of moral clarity, a sense of freedom and release. "I want to make a contribution," he said, "not a fast buck."

35 Gavin was instantly set bristling. "What, I'm not contributing?"
"Well, how?"

"I employ hundreds of people. Construction work—that's a lot of jobs. It's good for bosses and workers, it's good for everybody. And it's all part of opening up the country. Where's the problem?"

40 It was a difficult argument to answer. But Adam remembered that, in the years leading up to South Africa's big change; Gavin had been gloomy and frightened. He'd even spoken about emigrating. Adam had been the positive one, full of hope for the future. It didn't seem right that it should have worked out like this: with Adam unemployed and homeless, and his brother talking loudly about opening up the country.

"The way I see it," Gavin finished angrily, "you're not in any position to refuse."

45 "I'm grateful for the offer. Really. But it's a matter of principle."

"Oh, right. It's like that. Great to keep your principles while other people are looking after you."

"You offered," Adam said. "I didn't force you."

"Out of interest, what will your principles allow you to do?"

He hesitated, but then he answered. "I want to write poetry," he said.

Damon Galgut, *Impostor*, published in *Prospect*, June 2008

NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

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

- respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie.
(numéro et lettre repère, le cas échéant; ex. : 8b)
- faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne.
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger la réponse.
- respecter le nombre de mots indiqué qui constitue une exigence minimale.

En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée.

I -COMPRÉHENSION

1. a) In which country does the story take place?
b) l. 39: What important historical event does the "*big change*" refer to?
2. How are the main characters related to each other?
3. a) Find one quotation for each character that shows their economic situation.
b) What is Gavin's job and what does it consist in? (20 words)
c) Explain exactly what Gavin's proposition is.
4. True or false? Justify your answer by quoting from the text.
Gavin takes Adam to the top of the construction site to impress him.
5. What are the 2 adjectives that best describe Gavin's character? Justify your choices by quoting from the text.

HONEST - DISHONEST - PESSIMISTIC - CONSIDERATE - IDEALISTIC - SELF-SATISFIED

6. l. 12 to 15: Why does Gavin mention the fact that "*one of their company directors was a black man*"? (40 words)
7. a) What does the pronoun "*it*" refer to in the following phrases?
 1. l. 17: ***it*** *wasn't nice*.
 2. l. 19: *the possibility of ***it****b) True or false? Justify by quoting from the text.
Poverty only affects black people.

8. 1. 16 to 22: Explain Adam's first reaction to Gavin's proposition.
9. a) What is Adam's final decision?
b) What does he discover that precipitates his decision? (20 words)
10. How different from Gavin is Adam? (30 words)
11. How does Gavin react to Adam's decision and why? Choose 2 adjectives and use them in your answer. (40 words)
INDIFFERENT - RELIEVED - OFFENDED - OVERJOYED - OUTRAGED
12. Translate from l. 38 "*It was a difficult argument to answer ...*" to l. 40 "*...full of hope for the future.*"

II- EXPRESSION

Choose **one** of the following subjects (250 words)

1. How can a poet or an artist "*make a contribution*" to society?
2. Shortly after this scene, Adam calls his mother and tells her about his final decision. Imagine the conversation.