

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2011

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Séries 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 3 pages numérotées de 1/3 à 3/3.

Compréhension et traduction	10 points
Expression	10 points

She had been waiting nearly a quarter of an hour and was starting to feel foolish. Across the sunlit white stone floor of the small piazza, a group of schoolgirls, some of them licking ice creams and all impossibly pretty, kept staring at her and although Sarah barely understood a word of Italian, she was sure they were talking about her. The girls were listening to their teacher, a nervous-looking woman with tightly pinned hair who was reciting from a book. She was no doubt briefing them about the gallery that they – and Sarah, if her date showed up – were about to visit.

She took her cigarettes out of her purse and lit one. She would give him twenty minutes. That was what Benjamin used to say. If someone kept you waiting, allow twenty minutes, then go. It was polite yet assertive, he said. Any longer and people would believe you had no self-respect. It irritated her that she should still think to behave according to his rules after four and a half years of living without him. But it was too ingrained.

It was her last day in Venice and she didn't want to waste it waiting for a virtual stranger, a man at least twenty years her junior who, in any case, had probably forgotten all about her. She had planned to spend the day browsing the shops, buying gifts for a few people back home. And to get this done in time to meet the young man, she had risen, breakfasted and left the hotel before eight.

They had met the previous morning on the ferry to Torcello. Her tour group had split up for the day and only a handful had wanted to make the hour-long trip across the lagoon. They were mostly retired couples or pairs of friends, either from New York City or New Jersey. All were a good ten years older than Sarah and she had little in common with any of them. There was too much moaning about the hotel food and how expensive everything was. All week she had kept her distance, politely declining offers to include her. Her best friend Iris, with whom she had booked the trip, had cancelled at the last moment because her mother had a stroke. Sarah probably should have cancelled too. But she'd never been to Venice and was reluctant to miss the chance.

On the ferry she chatted for a while with the merry widows - two women from Newark who never stopped laughing - and then escaped aft to find a seat where she could quietly read her book and gaze out across the green water at the vaporettos chugging by.

The young man had come on board when the ferry stopped at the Lido. He took a seat across the aisle from her, facing the same way. He was probably in his mid - to late twenties, conservatively dressed in a white shirt and pressed charcoal pants. He caught her looking at him and gave her a beautiful smile. She smiled back politely and quickly looked down at her book, hoping the glow she could feel in her cheeks didn't show. Out of the side of her eye she saw him pull a sketchbook from his black leather bag. He flipped through it until he found the page he was looking for and then took out a pen and set to work.

Sarah could see it was a precise drawing in black ink of an old palazzo. There were patches of crumbled stucco and ornate scrolling at the windows. He was filling in the detail, perhaps from memory or perhaps simply from his own imagination. Whichever it was, the work was impressive. Again he caught her looking and graciously showed her what he was doing. They began talking. In robust, if flawed, English, he told her that he was from Rome and that he came to Venice every spring to visit an aged aunt. The picture was of her house.

Nicholas Evans, *The Divide*, 2006

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

Les candidats traiteront tous les exercices **sur la copie** qui leur sera fournie et veilleront à :

- respecter l'**ordre des questions** et reporter la **numérotation** sur la copie (numéro de l'exercice et, le cas échéant, la lettre repère ; ex. : 1a, 1b, etc.)
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger. 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.
- faire précéder les citations éventuellement demandées du **numéro de ligne** dans le texte.

COMPREHENSION

- 1- What is the main character's name and probable nationality?
- 2- Say whether the following statements are right or wrong.
 - The main character and the young man first met on a ferry.
 - They are about the same age.
 - He was the first to look at her.
 - They agreed to visit a gallery together.
- 3- In which country does the story take place?
- 4- Why has the main character gone there?
- 5- Why hasn't her best friend gone with her?
- 6- Who do you think Benjamin is?
- 7- What makes the main character different from the other members of the tour group?
- 8- Explain in your own words what events, the previous day, led her to change her plans for her last day in Venice.
- 9- Why do you think she "was starting to feel foolish" while she was waiting?
- 10- Translate from line 34 to 38 (From 'Out of the side' to 'an old palazzo').

EXPRESSION

Choose **one** of the following subjects (300 words)

- 1- Have you ever had an unforgettable holiday, either good or bad? Write about what happened.

OR

- 2- Would you rather visit a foreign city by yourself or in a tour group? Explain the advantages and disadvantages of each choice.