

SESSION 2005

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 2

SERIE S

Durée : 2 heures

Coefficient : 2

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

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

Les candidats traiteront le sujet sur la copie qui leur sera fournie en respectant l'ordre des questions et en faisant apparaître la numérotation (numéro et lettre repère, le cas échéant).

Ils composeront des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses.

Les citations seront précédées de la mention de la ligne.

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

[...] A week or so ago we took our eldest son off to a small university in Ohio. He was the first of our four to fly the coop, and now he is gone - grown up, independent, far away - and I am suddenly realizing how quickly they go.

5 'Once they leave for college they never really come back,' a neighbour who has lost two of her own in this way told us wistfully the other day.

This isn't what I wanted to hear. I wanted to hear that they come back a lot, only this time they hang up their clothes, admire you for your intelligence and wit, and no longer have a hankering<sup>1</sup> to sink diamond studs into various odd holes in their heads. But the neighbour was right. He is gone. There is an  
10 emptiness in the house that proves it.

I hadn't expected it to be like this because for the past couple of years even when he was here he wasn't really here, if you see what I mean. Like most teenagers, he didn't live in our house in any meaningful sense - more just  
15 dropped by a couple of times a day to see what was in the refrigerator or to wander between rooms, a towel round his waist, calling out, 'Mum, where's my...?' as in, 'Mum, where's my yellow shirt?' and 'Mum, where's my deodorant?' Occasionally I would see the top of his head in an easy chair in front of a television on which Oriental people were kicking each other in the heads, but mostly he resided in a place called 'Out.'

20 My role in getting him off to college was simply to write cheques - lots and lots of them - and to look suitably pale and aghast as the sums mounted. You can't believe the cost of sending a child to university in the United States these days. Perhaps it is because we live in a community where these matters are treated gravely, but nearly every college-bound youth in our town goes off  
25 and looks at half a dozen or more prospective universities at enormous cost. Then there are fees for college entrance examinations and a separate fee for each university applied to.

But all this pales beside the cost of university itself. My son's tuition is \$19,000 a year, [...] which I am told is actually quite reasonable these days.  
30 Some schools charge as much as \$28,000 for tuition. Then there is a fee of \$3,000 a year for his room, \$2,400 for food, \$700 or so for books, \$650 for health centre fees and insurance, and \$710 for 'activities'. Don't ask me what that is. I just sign the cheques.

35 Still to come are the costs of flying him to and from Ohio at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter - holidays when every other college student in America is flying and so airfares are at their most stupefyingly extreme - plus all the other incidental expenses like spending money and long-distance phone bills. Already my wife is calling him every other day to ask if he has enough money, when in fact, as I point out, it should be the other way  
40 round. Oh, and this goes on for four years here, rather than three as in Britain. And here's one more thing. Next year I have a daughter who goes off to university, so I get to do this twice.

45 So you will excuse me, I hope, when I tell you that the emotional side of this event was rather overshadowed by the ongoing financial shock. It wasn't until we dropped him at his university dormitory and left him there looking touchingly lost and bewildered amid an assortment of cardboard boxes and suitcases in a spartan room not unlike a prison cell, that it really hit home that he was vanishing out of our lives and into his own.

50 Now that we are home it is even worse. There is no kickboxing on the TV,  
no astounding clutter of trainers<sup>2</sup> in the back hallway, no calls of 'Mum, where's  
my ...?' from the top of the stairs, no one my size to call me a 'doofus' or to say,  
'Nice shirt, Dad. Did you mug a boat person?' In fact, I see now, I had it exactly  
wrong. Even when he wasn't here, he was here, if you see what I mean. And  
now he is not here at all. [...]

55 For the past week I have found myself spending a lot of time wandering  
aimlessly through the house looking at the oddest things - a basketball, his  
running trophies, an old holiday snapshot<sup>3</sup>- and thinking about all the  
carelessly discarded yesterdays they represent. The hard and unexpected part  
60 is the realization not just that my son is not here, but that the boy he was is  
gone for ever. I would give anything to have them both back. But of course that  
cannot be. Life moves on. Kids grow up and move away, and, if you don't know  
this already, believe me it happens faster than you can imagine.

Bill BRYSON, *Notes from a Big Country*, 1998

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<sup>1</sup> Hankering : a strong desire

<sup>2</sup> clutter of trainers : lots of training shoes

<sup>3</sup> snapshot : a photograph

## COMPREHENSION

1) Write down the two most appropriate titles for the text :

- |                 |                        |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| No regrets      | Free at last           | Missing but not missed |
| On losing a son | In praise of departure | The bird has flown     |

### Lines 1 to 19

2) Who or what do the following words refer to ?

- a) "our" (l. 1)
- b) "they" (l. 4)
- c) "He" (l. 9)
- d) "it" (l. 11)
- e) "you" (l. 12)

3) Quote two things that ideally children should do according to Bill Bryson.

4) "even when he was here he wasn't really here" (l.12) : explain in your own words what Bill Bryson means. (15 words)

5) Translate from: "Occasionally..." to "...called 'Out'." (l. 17 to 19)

### Lines 20 to 40

6) Write "True" when the statement is correct and "False" when it is not. Justify with a quotation from the text.

- a) Entrance examinations are free.
- b) Tuition includes social security.
- c) Bill Bryson does not have a clue as to what the "activities" consist of.
- d) He has already bought tickets for his son to fly back home.
- e) Bill Bryson's son gets discount rates to fly back home for the holidays.

### Lines 41 to 62

7) Quote the words or phrases meaning :

- a) I suddenly became fully aware of the situation.
- b) a stupid man.
- c) I was completely mistaken.

- 8) " the emotional side of this event was rather overshadowed by the ongoing financial shock" (l.43 - 44) means :
- feelings were more important than the financial aspect of the situation.
  - money matters came second to his feelings.
  - writing cheques stopped him from realizing his son was leaving.
- 9) " he was vanishing out of our lives and into his own" (l. 48) : explain in your own words what Bill Bryson means. (15 words)
- 10) How did Bill Bryson feel when he came across objects belonging to his son?  
(15 words)
- 11) a) Which adjective best defines Bill Bryson's state of mind ?  
hopeless      relieved      resentful      resigned
- b) Quote a sentence from the text to justify your answer.

## EXPRESSION

*Les candidats traiteront au choix **UN** des deux sujets*

### Sujet A (200 mots)

Bill Bryson's son is back home for Thanksgiving. Imagine the scene. (You can either write a dialogue or a narrative.)

### Sujet B (200 mots)

If you were a student at university, would you rather live with your parents or move away? State your reasons.