

SESSION 2005

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

SERIES ES - S

Durée : 3 heures

Coefficient : 3

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.*

*The scene takes place in the 1860's.*

After their arrival in Christchurch, Joseph had supervised the purchasing of materials for building the Cob House, and had hired men to help him, and horses and drays to lug<sup>1</sup> the tin and the pine planks and the sacks of nails and bales of calico, and at last made ready to set off north-westwards, towards the  
5 Okuku River.

Harriet had asked her new husband to take her with him. She clung to him and pleaded – she who never whined or complained, who carried herself so well. But she was a woman who longed for the unfamiliar and the strange. As a child, she'd seen it waiting for her, in dreams or in the colossal darkness of the  
10 sky: some wild world which lay outside the realm of everything she knew. And the idea that she could build a house out of stones and earth and put windows and doors in it and a chimney and a roof to keep out the weather and then live in it thrilled her. She wanted to see it take shape like that, out of nothing. She wanted to learn how to mash mud and chop the yellow tussock<sup>2</sup> to make the  
15 cob<sup>3</sup>. She wanted to see her own hand in everything. No matter if it took a long time. No matter if her skin was burned in the summer heat. No matter if she had to learn each new task like a child. She had been a governess for twelve years. Now, she had travelled an ocean and stood in a new place, but she wanted to go still further, into a wilderness.

20 Joseph Blackstone had looked tenderly at her. He saw how ardently she wanted to embark on the next stage of their journey, but, as always, there was Lilian to think of. As always, the choices that he made were never simple.

'Harriet,' he said, 'I am sorry, but you must stay in Christchurch. I'm relying on you to help Lilian to become accustomed to New Zealand life. A choral society  
25 must be found for her.'

Harriet suggested that, with the help of Mrs Dinsdale, in whose neat tidy Rooms they were lodging, Lilian would be able to find the choral society on her own. 'And then,' Harriet added, 'she will have no more need of me, Joseph, for  
it is her voice that sings, not mine.'

30 'There is the strangeness of everything,' said Joseph. 'You cannot comprehend the degree to which this new world is disconcerting to a woman of sixty-three.'

'The Rooms are not strange,' insisted Harriet. 'The jug and basin are of a pattern almost identical to the pot your mother kept under her bed in Norfolk ...'

35 'Different birds sing outside the window.'

'Oh but still they are *birds* singing, not monkeys.'

'The light is other.'

'Brighter. But only within a degree of brightness. It will not harm her.'

40 On and on it went, this conversation, for it was not a conversation but a war, a small war, the first war they had ever had, but one which would never be quite forgotten, even after Harriet had lost it. And on the morning when Joseph set off towards the ochre-coloured plains, Harriet had to turn away from him and from Lilian so that neither of them would see how bitterly angry she felt.

45 She ran up the wooden stairs to the Rooms, went into the green-painted parlour and closed the door. She stood at the open window, breathing the salty air. She longed to be a bird or a whale – some creature which might slip between men's actions and their forgetfulness to arrive at its own private destination. For she knew that in her thirty-four years of life she had never been tried or tested, never gone beyond the boundaries society had set for her.

50 And now, once again, she had been left behind. It would be Joseph that would make their house rise out of nothing on the empty plains, Joseph who would build a fire under the stars and hear the cry of the distant bush. Harriet yawned. In the tidy parlour, she felt her anger gradually give way to a deep and paralysing boredom.

Rose TREMAIN, *The Colour*, 2003

---

<sup>1</sup> to lug = to carry

<sup>2</sup> tussock = grass

<sup>3</sup> cob = building material

**COMPREHENSION**

1. In what country and city does the scene take place ?
2. How many characters are mentioned in the story ? Give their full names and ages when possible.
3. How are the various characters related ?
4. Which title best suits the whole passage ?
  - Longings and frustrations
  - Singing in a choir.
  - Building a house.
  - Sailing around the world.
5. Say whether the following statements are right or wrong. Justify your answer by quoting the text :
  - a) Harriet and Joseph arrived in Christchurch shortly after their marriage.
  - b) Harriet had never worked before.
  - c) Harriet was not very keen on setting off on a long journey north-westward.
  - d) Harriet did not feel like helping Lilian.
  - e) For the first time in their married life, they did not agree with each other.
  - f) She felt oppressed by social conventions.

**Line 1 to line 19**

6. 1. Find equivalents in the text corresponding to the following words or phrases :
  - a) buying
  - b) go
  - c) strongly hoped for
  - d) excited
  - e) empty space
2. Find two verbs expressing her discontent.
7. "Harriet had asked her husband to take her with him" (line 6). Give three reasons why she wanted to go with him.
8. Explain in your own words the phrase "who carried herself so well" (line 7). (20 words)

Line 20 to line 43

9. a) What did Joseph ask Harriet to do ? What for ? (20 words)  
 b) Explain why “the choices that he made were never simple” (line 22).  
 (30 words)
10. How did Harriet answer her husband’s objections ? (30 words)
11. Why did Harriet lose the war ? (30 words)

Line 44 to the end

12. a) What animals does she identify with ?  
 b) Why? (20 words)
13. Analyse her feelings at the end ? (50 words)

Translate the following passage into French : from line 10 “And the idea” ... to line 13 ...“out of nothing”.

EXPRESSION

Choose one of the following topics :

I - What makes people dream of going to a distant place to start a new life ?  
 (300 words)

II - Back in her room, Harriet writes a letter to her best friend in England telling her about how she feels after Joseph’s departure. (300 words)