

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2006

ANGLAIS – LVI

Séries ES-S

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 3

L'usage des calculatrices et de tout dictionnaire est interdit.

Barème appliqué pour la correction

<i>Compréhension écrite</i>	<i>10 points</i>
<i>Expression</i>	<i>10 points</i>

Ce sujet comporte 4 pages.

The world might have changed for the worse in some respects, but in others it was a much better place, and it was important to remember this. Lights went off in some places, but went on in others. Look at Africa – there had been so much to shake one's head over – corruption, civil wars, and the rest – but there was also so much which was now much better. There had been slavery in the past, and all the suffering which that had brought, and there had been all the cruelties of apartheid just those few miles away over the border, but all that was now over. There had been ignorance, but now more and more people were learning to write, and were graduating from universities. Women had been held in such servitude, and now they could vote and express themselves and claim lives for themselves, even if there were still many men who did not want such things to be. These were the good things that happened and one had to remember them.

Mma¹ Ramotswe raised her tea cup to her lips and looked out over the brim. At the edge of the car park, immediately in front of the café, a small market had been set up, with traders' stalls and trays of colourful goods. She watched as a man attempted to persuade a customer to buy a pair of sunglasses. The woman tried on several pairs, but was not satisfied, and moved on to the next stall. There she pointed to a small piece of silver jewellery, a bangle², and the trader, a short man wearing a wide-brimmed felt hat, passed it across to her to try on. Mma Ramotswe watched as the woman held out her wrist to be admired by the trader, who nodded encouragement. But the woman seemed not to agree with his verdict, and handed the bangle back, pointing to another item at the back of the stall. And at that moment, while the trader turned round to stretch for whatever it was that she had singled out³, the woman quickly slipped another bangle into the pocket of the jacket she was wearing.

Mma Ramotswe gasped. This time, she could not sit back and allow a crime to be committed before her very eyes. If people did nothing, then no wonder that things were getting worse. So she stood up, and began to walk firmly towards the stall where the woman had now engaged the trader in earnest discussion about the merits of the merchandise which he was showing her.

"Excuse me, Mma."

The voice came from behind her, and Mma Ramotswe turned round to see who had addressed her. It was the waitress, a young woman whom Mma Ramotswe had not seen at the café before.

"Yes, Mma, what is it?"

The waitress pointed an accusing finger at her. "You cannot run away like that," she said. "I saw you. You're trying to go away without paying the bill. I saw you."

For a moment Mma Ramotswe was unable to speak. The accusation was a terrible one, and so unwarranted. Of course she had not been trying to get away without paying the bill — she would never do such a thing; all she was doing was trying to stop a crime being committed before her eyes.

She recovered herself sufficiently to reply. "I am not trying to go away, Mma," she said. "I am just trying to stop that person over there from stealing from that man. Then I would have come back to pay."

The waitress smiled knowingly. "They all find some excuse," she said. "Every day there are people like you. They come and eat our food and then they run away and hide. You people are all the same."

Mma Ramotswe looked over towards the stall. The woman had begun to walk away, presumably with the bangle still firmly in her pocket. It would now be too late to do anything about it, and all because of this silly young woman who had misunderstood what she was doing.

She went back to her table and sat down. "Bring me the bill," she said. "I will pay it straightaway."

The waitress stared at her. "I will bring you the bill," she said. "But I shall have to add something for myself. I will have to add this if you do not want me to call the police and tell them about how you tried to run away."

As the waitress went off to fetch the bill, Mma Ramotswe glanced around her to see if

¹ Mma: polite term equivalent of Madam or Mrs.

² bangle: sort of bracelet.

³ single out: indicate (in this context)

- 55 people at the neighbouring tables had witnessed the scene. At the table next to hers, a woman sat with her two young children, who were sipping with evident pleasure at large milkshakes. The woman smiled at Mma Ramotswe, and then turned her attention back to the children. She had not seen anything, thought Mma Ramotswe, but then the woman leaned across the table and addressed a remark to her.
- 60 "Bad luck, Mma," she said. "They are too quick in this place. It is easier to run away at the hotels."

In the Company of Cheerful Ladies, Alexander McCall Smith, 2005

I COMPRÉHENSION

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

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, ex: 15b - **voir en particulier les questions 1, 5, 6, 9,10 et 12**). Ils composeront des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqué constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée. Les **citations** seront limitées aux éléments **pertinents** et précédées de la mention de la ligne.

Question 1

1. The main character, Mma Ramotswe, is in Africa. Where exactly?
 - a) at a café
 - b) at a hotel
 - c) at a police station
 - d) at a universityJustify your answer by a quotation from the text.

Questions 2 to 5. Focus on the passage from line 12 to line 32.

2. (line 23) "Mma Ramotswe gasped". Explain why she was so shocked. (20 words)
3. What did she intend to do?
4. Explain in your own words whether she was successful or not.
5. a) Two female characters are referred to as "Mma". One of them is Mma Ramotswe. Who is the other lady?
b) Who is speaking in each of the following lines?
(line 28) "Excuse me, Mma."
(line 32) "Yes, Mma, what is it?"

Questions 6 and 7. Focus on the passage from line 33 to line 44.

6. True or False. Justify your answers with a quotation from the text.
 - a) The other lady thought Mma Ramotswe was dishonest.
 - b) It would have been very unlike Mma Ramotswe to do anything dishonest.
 - c) Mma Ramotswe pleaded guilty.

7. Choose the adjective that characterises the other lady:

cynical, naïve, nervous, sympathetic, understanding

Justify your choice by a quotation from the text.

8. How can the other lady's attitude be accounted for? (20 words)

9. a) (lines 46-47) "It would now be too late to do anything about it..."

What does "it" refer to? Explain why it was "too late".

- b) What did Mma Ramotswe decide to do at that point?

10. a) (lines 51-52) "But I shall have to add something for myself."

What did the other lady mean?

- b) (lines 52-53) "I will have to add this if you do not want me to call the police and tell them about how you tried to run away."

Say in your own words what choice Mma Ramotswe was faced with.

Questions 11 and 12. Focus on the passage from line 54 to the end.

11. Why was Mma Ramotswe so anxious to know if someone "had witnessed the scene"? (line 55)

12. a) How do you understand the last two lines of the text? (30 words)

- b) What impact do you think these words will have on Mma Ramotswe?

13. To what extent do the last two lines correct the vision of Africa given in the first paragraph of the text? (30 words)

II. EXPRESSION

Choose either subject 1 or subject 2.

1. The text begins: "The world might have changed for the worse in some respects, but in others it was a much better place". Is this how you see the world in which you live? Develop your arguments and illustrate them with a few examples. (300 words)
2. 'Bad luck' (line 60) – Write a letter to a friend telling him/her of an incident in which you were most unlucky. (300 words)