

Session 2007

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 1

Série L

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 4

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Compréhension Expression	14 points
Traduction	6 points

Le sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/4 à 4/4.

Inside this tipsy house I lived something of a lopsided life. Because from my earliest years I was very much like my mother, and hardly at all like my father or older sister. My mother said it was because we were made just the same, she and I – and it was true we both had the same peculiar eyes of a sort you almost never see in Japan. Instead of being dark brown like everyone else's, my mother's eyes were a translucent gray, and mine are just the same. When I was very young, I told my mother I thought someone had poked a hole in her eyes and all the ink had drained out, which she thought very funny. The fortune-tellers said her eyes were so pale because of too much water in her personality, so much that the other four elements were hardly present at all – and this, they explained, was why her features matched so poorly. People in the village often said she ought to have been extremely attractive, because her parents had been. Well, a peach has a lovely taste and so does a mushroom, but you can't put the two together; this was the terrible trick nature had played on her. She had her mother's pouty mouth but her father's angular jaw, which gave the impression of a delicate picture with much too heavy a frame. And her lovely gray eyes were surrounded by thick lashes that must have been striking on her father, but in her case only made her look startled.

My mother always said she'd married my father because she had too much water in her personality and he had too much wood in his. People who knew my father understood right away what she was talking about. Water flows from place to place quickly and always finds a crack to spill through. Wood, on the other hand, holds fast to the earth. In my father's case this was a good thing, for he was a fisherman, and a man with wood in his personality is at ease on the sea. In fact, my father was more at ease on the sea than anywhere else, and never left it far behind him. He smelled like the sea even after he had bathed. When he wasn't fishing, he sat on the floor in our dark front room mending a fishing net. And if a fishing net had been a sleeping creature, he wouldn't even have awakened it, at the speed he worked. He did everything this slowly. Even when he summoned a look of concentration, you could run outside and drain the bath in the time it took him to rearrange his features. His face was very heavily creased*, and into each crease he had tucked some worry or other, so that it wasn't really his own face any longer, but more like a tree that had nests of birds in all the branches. He had to struggle constantly to manage it and always looked worn out from the effort.

When I was six or seven, I learned something about my father I'd never known. One day I asked him, 'Daddy, why are you so old?' He hoisted up his eyebrows at this, so that they formed little sagging umbrellas over his eyes. And he let out a long breath, and shook his head and said, 'I don't know.' When I turned to my mother, she gave me a look meaning she would answer the question for me another time. The following day without saying a word, she walked me down the hill toward the village and turned at a path into a graveyard in the woods. She led me to three graves in the corner, with three white marker posts much taller than I was. They had stern-looking black characters written top to bottom on them, but I hadn't attended the school in our little village long enough to know where one ended and the next began. My mother pointed to them and said, 'Natsu, wife of Sakamoto Minoru.' Sakamoto Minoru was the name of my father. 'Died age twenty-four, in the nineteenth year of Meiji.' Then she pointed to the next one: 'Jinichiro, son of Sakamoto Minoru, died age six, in the nineteenth year of Meiji,' and to the next one, which was identical except for the name, Masao, and the age, which was three. It took me a while to understand that my father had been married before, a long time ago, and that his whole family had died. I went back to those graves not long afterwards and found as I stood there that sadness was a very heavy thing. My body weighed twice what it had only a moment earlier, as if those graves were pulling me down toward them.

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden, 1997.

* creased : with lines on his face.

Les candidats traiteront le sujet **sur la copie qui leur sera fournie** en respectant **l'ordre des questions** et en faisant apparaître la **numérotation**. Ils composeront des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger des réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqué dans les consignes constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée. Les **citations** seront précédées de la mention de la ligne.

COMPREHENSION - EXPRESSION

Read the text.

1. Apart from the title of the book, give two elements to support the fact that the text is taken from memoirs.
2. In what country does the story take place? Justify with three quotations from the text.
3. Choose the title that best applies to each passage and justify your choice using one quotation from the text.
 - a) **lines 1 to 16:**
 - Like mother, like daughter
 - An ugly little girl
 - A pretty mother
 - b) **lines 17 to 31:**
 - An energetic man
 - A perfect match
 - A lazy husband
 - c) **lines 32 to the end:**
 - A happy revelation
 - An adopted child
 - Discovering the past

Read from line 1 to line 16.

4. When and why did the narrator realize that she was different from the rest of the community? How does she account for the origin of the difference? (30 words, quotations not included)
5. Lines 11-12, who do "a peach" and "a mushroom" refer to? Explain the metaphor. (40 words)

Read from line 17 to 31.

6. a) Who does each of the following quotations apply to?
 - l. 19-20, "Water flows from place to place quickly and always finds a crack to spill through."
 - l. 20, "Wood, on the other hand, holds fast to the earth."
- b) What do these quotations show about the characters' personalities?
7. Why was the sea so important to the father? (40 words)
8. Explain why the father's "face was very heavily creased" (l. 28). (15 words)

Read from line 32 to the end.

9. Explain the father's reaction to the child's question: "Daddy, why are you so old?" (l.33). (30 words)
10. At the end of the text, how did she feel towards her father? Why? Justify with quotations from the text. (30 words, quotations not included)
11. Choose ONE of the following subjects. (300 words). Give the number of words.
- 1) A few days after the child's visit to the graveyard, her father decided to tell her the story of what happened to his first family. Write a narrative.
 - 2) Do you think it is always a good thing to tell children the truth?

TRADUCTION

Translate from line 17 "My mother always said..." to line 24 "... mending a fishing net."