

CORRIGE

Ces éléments de correction n'ont qu'une valeur indicative. Ils ne peuvent en aucun cas engager la responsabilité des autorités académiques, chaque jury est souverain.

Session 2007

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 1

Série L

Corrigé

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 4

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Compréhension	14 points
Expression	
Traduction	6 points

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

Howard Beamish became a palaeontologist because of a rise in the interest rate when he was six years old. His father, a cautious man with a large mortgage, announced that the projected family holiday to the Costa Brava was no longer feasible. A chalet was rented on the north Somerset coast instead and thus, on a dank August afternoon, Howard picked up an ammonite on Blue Anchor Beach.

He presented it to his parents. 'What's this?'

'It's a stone,' said his father, who was listening to the test match.

'No, it isn't', retorted Howard, an observer of the match.

'It's a fossil, dear' said his mother. 'That's a very old sort of stone.'

'Why?' persisted Howard, after a few moments. The single word embraced in fact a vast range of query¹, for which he did not have the language.

His mother, too, paused to consider and was also defeated, though for different reasons. She evaded the issue by offering Howard a tomato sandwich, which he accepted with enthusiasm while continuing to pore over the ammonite. During the rest of the afternoon, he collected five more fossil fragments, including one embedded² in a slab of rock weighing several pounds.

His parents expostulated. There were already the picnic basket, the folding chairs, the radio, the beach bag, the ball, the cricket stumps³. 'Any of those stones you want to take back you're carrying yourself, do you understand?' instructed his father.

'They're not stones,' the child protested. And he staggered up the cliff path with the fruit of his first field trip wrapped in his jersey and slung over his shoulder. Thirty years later, the large chunk displaying *Psiloceras planorbis* was to do duty as a doorstep in his office in the Department of Biology at Tavistock College.

Howard did not revisit Blue Anchor Beach until he was thirty-eight, and the trip was indeed intended as some kind of pilgrimage and nostalgic celebration. He had just been made a Senior Lecturer, and had recently published a book which had been received with some acclaim. But he was now accompanied by the woman with whom he was rapidly falling out of love and the whole afternoon went sour. Vivien complained about the steep and slippery path down to the beach and when she got to the bottom she looked around her with distaste. 'There's no sand. And the sea's the colour of mud. I don't see anywhere we can sit, either – the whole place is nothing but pebbles.'

'It's not the sort of beach you sit on,' said Howard. 'It's the sort of beach you wander about on, looking for things. And there is sand when the tide goes out. I have played cricket on that very sand.'

Vivien cheered a little when he found her a chunk of rose-coloured alabaster. She decided to take it home for the sitting-room mantelpiece. This inspired Howard to talk about the *Psiloceras* doorstep, a fatal move since it led with awful inevitability to a mention of the department secretary, a jolly girl with whom Vivien suspected Howard of carrying on some sort of liaison. Vivien was pathologically jealous.

'And why precisely were *you* moving the filing cabinet⁴ for Carol? Surely she could have got one of the students to do that?'

'There wasn't anyone else round at that moment. The point of the story is that I thought I'd lost the thing, but it turned up again, not the whys and wherefores of the moving of the filing cabinet, for God's sake. I'm fond of that ammonite and I was sad it had gone missing, Vivien'.

He turned over a pebble with his foot, and exposed another in which hung the neat curl of a small ammonite. He considered offering this to Vivien as a reconciliation present, and decided not to. Instead, he covered it up again and sat thinking not of her but of that other afternoon whose imprint hung here also, imbued with the anarchic and inquiring spirit of his own six-year-old self and the rejuvenated presences of his mother and father, setting out chairs and picnic things, no longer diminished and slightly querulous⁵ in retirement at Deal but with all the vigour and authority of young parenthood, omniscient and omnipotent.

Adapted from Penelope Lively, *Cleopatra's Sister*, 1993

¹ query: question(s)

² embedded: inserted

³ stumps: sticks

⁴ filing cabinet: piece of furniture in an office

⁵ querulous: irritable

COMPRÉHENSION – EXPRESSION

Corrigé

*Vous traiterez les questions **dans l'ordre**, en indiquant clairement le **numéro** sur votre copie. Lorsque la réponse doit être développée, le nombre de mots est indiqué dans la question. En l'absence d'indications, vous répondrez **brèvement** à la question posée.*

1. The text can be divided into two parts, corresponding to two moments in Howard Beamish's life.

a) How old is he in each part?

6 in the first part. 38 in the second part.

2x2 pts = 4 pts

b) For each part, say what characters are present, mentioned or referred to.

Howard is present in both parts.

Howard's parents are present in the first part but in the second part, they are only

mentioned. In this second part, Vivien is present and Carol is mentioned

5 x 2 pts = 10 pts

c) Say how Vivien and Carol are connected to Howard.

Carol is a secretary working with Howard. (Accepter: his secretary)

Vivien is Howard's girlfriend / wife / the woman he is rapidly falling out of love with.

2 x 3 pts = 6 pts

2. a) Give the exact name of the place where both scenes are set. **Blue Anchor Beach.**

2 pts

b) What did Howard find the first time he went there?

He found a fossil / an ammonite / fossils

2 pts

c) How did that discovery influence the course of Howard's life?

That's what made him decide to become a palaeontologist. / That's when his passion for fossils began.

4 pts

3. Read from line 6 to line 20.

Contrast Howard's, his mother's and his father's attitudes and reactions concerning that discovery. (60 / 70 words)

Howard is really curious, and keeps asking questions because he is interested in what he has found. On the contrary, his father doesn't care about it. Howard's mother tries to help but is unable to give him further information about the fossil. When Howard wants to take the fossils back home, his parents refuse to help him. He is so determined that he carries them home himself (in spite of their weight).

5 x 3 pts = 15 pts

Focus on the passage from line 23 to the end.

4. a) In your own words, give the reasons why Howard visited the same place again.

(30 / 40 words)

He wanted to come back to the place that reminded him of his childhood and he wanted to come back to the place where his passion for fossils had started.

Moreover, he was there to celebrate his promotion as a Senior Lecturer and the success of his book.

3 x 3 pts = 9 pts

b) Say how Vivien felt about the place and justify your answer with three quotations.

Vivien didn't like it.

2 + 3X1 pt = 5 pts

Line 27: "Vivien complained about the steep and slippery path down the beach"

Line 28: "There is no sand"

Lines 28-29: "The sea is the colour of mud."

Line 29: "I don't see anywhere we can sit."

Lines 29-30: "The whole place is nothing but pebbles."

5. Why did Howard's "present" to Vivien (line 34) cause more tension between them? Use your own words. (20 / 30 words)

When he gave the piece of alabaster to Vivien, he mentioned Carol, **she is jealous of.**

Mettre un bonus au candidat qui explicite l'histoire de l'ammonite.

2X3 pts = 6 pts

6. Read lines 45-46 ("He considered...decided not to"). Explain Howard's decision. (20 / 30 words)
Perhaps he didn't want to offer her the ammonite because she could consider it as a kind of provocation. Or he may have decided not to reconcile with her as he didn't love her anymore.

5 pts

7. a) What does "that other afternoon" (line 46) refer to?

It refers to the afternoon when Howard found his ammonite during his holidays at Blue Anchor Beach with his parents, at the age of six.

6 pts

b) What image did Howard decide to keep of his parents? (20 / 30 words)

He chose / decided to remember them as young parents who knew everything, and to forget that they had become old.

Bonus pour un candidat qui revient sur "omniscient" et parle d'idéalisation des parents.

6 pts

8. Choose one of the following subjects.

(250 words approximately. Write down the number of words.)

Subject 1

You tell your parents that you have just changed your mind about your studies or your future job. They react to your decision. Write the scene.

Subject 2

Is there any place that means something special to you? Write about it.

TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 4 [...] *Howard picked up...* to line 15 ... *several pounds.*

1. Howard picked up an ammonite on Blue Anchor Beach.

Howard ramassa une ammonite à Blue Anchor Beach / sur la plage de Blue Anchor / de l'Ancre Bleue.

6 pts

2. He presented it to his parents. 'What's this?'

Il la montra à ses parents. « Qu'est-ce que c'est ? »

6 pts

3. 'It's a stone,' said his father, who was listening to the test match.

– C'est une pierre », dit son père, qui écoutait un test match / un match test (à la radio)

(Accepter : match de sélection, match international...)

6 pts

4. 'No, it isn't retorted Howard, an observant child.

« Non. / Non, c'est pas ça. / c'est pas une pierre / répliqua / rétorqua Howard qui était un enfant observateur.

6 pts

5. 'It's a fossil, dear' said his mother. 'That's a very old sort of stone.'

– C'est un fossile, (mon) chéri, dit sa mère. C'est une sorte de pierre très ancienne.

6 pts

6. 'Why?' persisted Howard, after a few moments.

– Pourquoi ? » insista Howard / dit Howard avec insistance, au bout d'un moment.

6 pts

7. The single word embraced in fact a vast range of query, for which he did not have the language.

Ce simple mot / ce mot à lui tout seul / recouvrait un large éventail de questions / contenait toute une série de questions qu'il n'arrivait pas (encore) à formuler / pour lesquelles il n'avait pas les mots.

12 pts

8. His mother, too, paused to consider and was also defeated,

Sa mère aussi s'arrêta un instant pour réfléchir et déclara également forfait / et s'avoua également vaincue / et ne sut que dire

9 pts

9. though for different reasons.

même si ses raisons étaient différentes / bien que cela ne fût pas pour les mêmes raisons.

3 pts

10. She evaded the issue by offering Howard a tomato sandwich,

Elle éluda la question / évita le sujet / contourna le problème en proposant à Howard un sandwich à la tomate,

6 pts

11. which he accepted with enthusiasm

qu'il accepta avec enthousiasme

3 pts

12. while continuing to pore over the ammonite.

tout en continuant à / d'observer l'ammonite attentivement.

6 pts

13. During the rest of the afternoon, he collected five more fossil fragments,

Pendant le reste de l'après midi, il ramassa encore cinq fragments / morceaux de fossiles,

6 pts

14. including one embedded in a slab of rock weighing several pounds.

dont un était incrusté dans une pierre / dans un morceau de pierre / de roche pesant / qui pesait / (de) plusieurs livres.

9 pts

RECAPITULATIF

COMPREHENSION – EXPRESSION 140 points

1. a) 4 points
 b) 10 points
 c) 6 points
2. a) 2 points
 b) 2 points
 c) 4 points
3. 15 points
4. a) 9 points
 b) 5 points
5. 6 points
6. 5 points
7. a) 6 points
 b) 6 points
8. 60 points

Corrigé

TRADUCTION 90 points à ramener sur 60 points
(multiplier la note obtenue par 2 puis diviser par 3)