

Sujet bac 2007 : Anglais LV1 Série L – Métropole

Session 2007

BACCALAURÉAT 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

Ce sujet comporte 4 pages.

The waiting area grew colder and emptier as dark fell, and he moved closer to the smoking stove by the clerk's counter. Soon there would be nothing left to do but knock on church doors and seek lodging for the night. He brooded over other possible avenues but came up only with cold alleyways. Well, it was warmer by the stove at least, and he stretched out his legs toward the heat.

He surprised himself suddenly with a twitch – he'd been asleep. He looked to the far corner and saw the clerk at the desk beckon at him.

"You. Yeah, *you*."

He had been called.

"Yes, sir." Hands on thighs, optimism rising, he stood.

"You been here all day. Didn't you sign in ? Don't you realize we're closed ?" He looked about and saw that the other benches sat vacant and the hall was empty but for himself and the clerk. The optimism dwindled away. The man was just kicking him out.

"Sorry. Sorry. I'll go."

"No – wait. Turns out you're lucky. See, I only let you snore because of the rotten weather, but now it seems *I'm* lucky. You noticed the snow ? Well, someone at Street Cleaning only just looked out the window, and they sent a boy over here with an order for an overnight shoveling¹ crew – just in time for closing. So what about it ? Shoveling snow for the city. You want the job ?"

It took him a moment to follow. "Snow, a job, shoveling," he repeated, and then he understood. "Ja, *danke, danke*," he said.

"Is that a yes ?" You better stop speaking Dutch and learn some English."

"Yes. Yes, sir."

"All right, good. You can start now and go till the regulars show up at six, see ? Anyway, you've had your beauty sleep, and I think I can tell from looking that you ain't got evening plans." *Beauty sleep ?* the stableman wondered. *Evening plans ?* He wasn't sure how he should respond.

"Or don't you want a night job ? You want I find some other lug² ?"

"A lug ? No... or, yes. I mean, yes, I'll do it – and no, no one else."

"You'll take the job."

"I'll take it."

"Good. The thing of it is, you're the only man left. You think you're man enough to shovel the city alone ?"

"The city alone? " He thought a moment. Perhaps it was a joke. "That would take a long time, sir," he finally said. His English might have been better if only the few people who talked to him had made more sense.

"You're right, it would. So, first thing you do is round up, say, twenty men and take 'em down to the dock at Coffee House Slip, East River off of Wall Street. You'll get the carts and shovels there and sign up with the fellow at the office. The others get paid for the time they shovel, you get paid foreman's³ wages, starting right now."

Foreman's wages.

"What's your name ?"

"Geiermeier," he said, and learning over the clerk's ledger⁴, he saw it written out in the beautiful Gothic script he'd learned as a boy and pointed to the entry. "I signed in the morning."

"You got to be kidding. Is that how you say that ? I must have tried to call you five times today, yesterday, too. I started to think it was Chinese, all that up and down and curlicue around, no way of knowing what letters is meant. Where'd you learn to write like that anyhow ? You don't know how to give yourself a leg up, do you ?"

A leg up ? Americans said much that he didn't understand. He had listened almost obsessively to the names being called. But then the clerk uttered a strange, vaguely familiar word, and it dawned on him : this was how the clerk had been pronouncing his name, with the *g* misinterpreted as *h*, the vowels collapsed, the *m* transmuted, and the sounds and stresses generally so different

¹ to shovel : déblayer

² lug : gars

³ foreman : contremaître

⁴ ledger : registre

from the actual pronunciation that it hadn't even registered on him. He frowned slightly with frustration – how many opportunities had he missed in the past two days because of this ?

“That’s a G,” he said weakly, pointing to the page. “I never realized you were calling me.”

“What kind of writing is that, Greek ? You ain’t Greek, are you ?”

“It’s German.”

“Aw, jeez. Now, there’s plenty of Germans in New York, and they seem to get along. But where are you going to get with a name no one can read, and you can’t even tell when they’re trying to ? It just won’t do, that name. Or the handwriting either.”

Adapted from Elizabeth Gaffney, *Metropolis*, 2005

COMPREHENSION – EXPRESSION

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

1. a) Name the country and city where the story is set.
b) What time of the year is it ?
c) What time of the day is it ? Justify your answer with two quotations.
2. Geiermeier is waiting in a sort of job centre. How long has he been there ?
3. a) "Soon there would be nothing left to do but knock on church doors and seek lodging for the night." (Lines 2 and 3)
In your own words say what his problem is and how he must be feeling.
b) In what particular way does this problem get solved ?
c) Say what he is asked to do. (20 / 30 words)
4. "Turns out you're lucky." (Line 14)
In your own words, say what chain of events makes Geiermeier lucky. (40 / 50 words)
5. Read from line 14 to line 19.
Describe and explain Geiermeier's reaction to the clerk's words.
6. Focus on what the clerk says from line 20 to 30.
What does it reveal about his attitude towards Geiermeier ? (2 elements)
7. Focus on the passage from line 39 to the end.
Why didn't Geiermeier get a job sooner ? (40 words)
8. a) Read from line 55 to 57. Say what the clerk implicitly tells Geiermeier to do and explain why.
b) Imagine Geiermeier's thoughts and reactions following the clerk's remark. (40 / 50 words)
9. Choose one the following subjects.
(250 words approximately. Write down the number of words.)

Subject 1

Trying to make oneself understood in a foreign country is not always easy. What sort of situations can it lead to ? Give examples.

Subject 2

You tell your friends that you have decided to apply for a summer job in an English-speaking country. They react to your decision. Write the scene.

TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 10 (*You been here all day...*) to line 17 (*...want the job ?*)