

Session 2007

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

**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

Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.

When I awoke an hour later I knew I had to call the advertiser immediately before I started bingeing again out of sheer fright. Marching downstairs I grabbed the magazine, reached for the telephone and started dialling.

The woman answered on the first ring. I pictured her reclining on a couch in a sumptuous drawing-room while sipping tea – Lapsang Souchong, perhaps – from a Crown Derby cup. Beyond the tall Georgian windows the trees of Eaton Square would be swaying in an exquisitely delicate breeze.

'Hullo?' It was certainly an aristocratic voice, soprano and self-confident, and the manner proved to be aristocratic too, pleasant but steely, making me wonder if her charm was only skin-deep. A polite conversation ensued, effortlessly shaped by this formidable female. It was hard to guess how old she was. She could have been in her thirties but the way in which she directed the interrogation made me suspect she was considerably older.

'What's your connection with St Benet's?' she demanded sharply after asking the essential questions about my qualifications.

'The Rector conducted my aunt's funeral today.'

Of course she didn't offer her condolences. What was Aunt to her? She didn't know me, and the idea that she might make an effort to observe the conventions of middle-class politeness obviously never entered her head. Instead she exclaimed with pleasure: 'Ah, so you know Nick!' and for the first time I heard the genuine warmth in her voice.

Briskly she said: 'Very well, this is the situation: I have a house in Eaton Terrace – the Eaton Square end – and there's a tiny flat in the basement for a live-in employee, just a bedroom, sitting-room, bathroom and kitchen. I have the most wonderful cleaner, a treasure who comes in almost every day, so apart from the cooking you wouldn't have to do anything except clean up after yourself in the kitchen – oh, and keep the basement flat spick and span, of course. I like to entertain a lot but otherwise there's only me to cater for – I'm a widow and my children are grown up. I go away now and then, and while I'm away I'd expect you to act as a caretaker – which is why I advertised in Nick's magazine; I've got to get the sort of person who's absolutely honest, even when she's unsupervised, and I decided my best course was to trawl a Christian community and ask the priest's opinion of whoever turned up in the net... Nick didn't mention you, by the way, when I placed the advertisement last week.'

'I've only just met him.'

'Never mind, he'll have summed you up accurately, he's psychic. Where was I? Oh yes, the caretaking. There's a burglar alarm – and I've also got a dog, but Mortimer goes everywhere with me so he won't be around to guard you while you're on your own. Are you likely to panic if you're alone in the house at night?'

'Not in the least.'

'Good. Now, I'll pay the going rate and give the usual amount of holiday, but we can talk about that later if I decide you're suitable. When can you come to see me?'

'Well—'

'Shall we say noon tomorrow? I have a committee meeting in the morning, but I'll be home by eleven thirty.'

'Noon – yes – thank you—'

She gave me the number of the house. 'Bring your references,' she added, 'and your Cordon Bleu certificate. I always believe in checking details – you mustn't think I intend to rely *entirely* on Nick's psychic powers. Now, is that all quite clear?'

'Yes, thank you, Mrs—' I paused, waiting for the final piece of information.

'Lady Cynthia Aysgarth,' came the crisp reply. 'That's A-Y-S-G-A-R-T-H, like the place in Yorkshire. Thank you, Miss Fletcher.' And she hung up, leaving me still scribbling that unfamiliar northern name.

Susan Howatch, *Question of integrity*, 1997 (abridged and adapted)

## NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

Les candidats traiteront le sujet sur la copie qui leur sera fournie et veilleront à :

- a) respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant, ex:14 c) ;
- b) faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne ;
- c) composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

## **COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION**

- 1. a) Give the names of the two main characters.  
b) Who's calling whom? Why? What for?
- 2. a) Who and what is Nick? How is he related to the two main characters?  
b) Who or what do the following words refer to?
  - The advertiser (l. 1)
  - St Benet's (l. 13)
  - The Rector (l. 15)
  - Mortimer (l. 34)

### **FOCUS ON THE FIRST PART OF THE TEXT (from line 1 down to line 19)**

- 3. a) Did the person on the phone sound the way the narrator had imagined her? Illustrate your answer quoting four elements from the text. (about 40 words)  
b) In your own words, illustrate in what sense the woman was 'pleasant but steely' (l. 9) and justify quoting at least two elements from the text. (about 40 words)

### **FOCUS ON THE REST OF THE TEXT (from line 20 to the end)**

- 4. What do we learn about the woman answering the phone: marital status / family / home / way of life? (about 60 words)
- 5. Which four tasks does she expect the narrator to do? (about 40 words)
- 6. a) What major quality does the woman expect from an employee?  
b) What did she decide to do to make sure she would get the right person for the job and why? (about 30 words)

7. a) According to the woman, Nick has got 'psychic powers' (l.46). What does she mean? (about 20 words)
- b) Does she trust him completely though? Justify in your own words. (about 20 words)
- c) What other trait of her personality does it reveal? (about 30 words)

8. Vous traiterez les **deux** sujets.

Sujet 1 : One month later, Miss Fletcher writes to a friend of hers to tell her about her new experience at Lady Cynthia Aysgarth's. Imagine the letter (150 words)

Sujet 2 : Do you think we should trust our first impressions? Illustrate your point with examples from your own experience. (100 words)

## TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 8 ('Hullo?') to line 18 (...never entered her head.)