

# BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL - SESSION 2007

ÉPREUVE

ANGLAIS LV.2

SÉRIE L

Durée : 3 heures

Coefficient : 4

SÉRIE S

Durée : 2 heures

Coefficient : 2

***Ce sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4***

*L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.*

***Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.***

## Barème

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Compréhension du texte</b> | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Expression personnelle</b> | <b>10</b> |

You know you're young when someone asks you for money and you take it as a compliment.

"You look pretty cool, can I ask you a question?"

5 The beggar was a girl in her late teens, a hippie standing outside the convenience store at the North Hills shopping center. She wore a peasant blouse and long, elephant-belled jeans that made it appear as though she had no feet. Granny glasses, amulets, a beaded headband : I couldn't believe that someone so sophisticated was actually talking to me.

10 I was thirteen that summer and had ridden to the Kwik Pik with my mother, who handed me a ten-dollar bill and asked me to run in for a carton of cigarettes. She watched the hippie ask me a question, watched me run into the store, and watched me stop on the way out to hand the girl a dollar.

15 "What was that?" she asked when I got back into the car. "Who was that girl?" Had I been with my father, I would have lied, saying she was a friend, but my mother knew I had no interesting friends, and so I told the truth.

"You didn't give her a dollar," she said. "You gave her *my* dollar."

"But she needed it."

"What for?" my mother said. "Shampoo? A needle and thread?"

"I don't know. I didn't ask."

20 "I don't know. I didn't ask." Being mocked by the untalented was easy to brush off, but my mother was really good at imitating people. Coming from her, I sounded spoiled and vacant, like a Persian cat, only human. "If you want to give her a dollar, that's your own business", she said. "But that dollar was mine, and I want it back."

25 I offered to pay her when we got home, but that wasn't good enough. "I don't want just any old dollar," she said, "I want *that* one."

It was ridiculous to claim an attachment to a particular dollar bill, but for my mother this had become a matter of principle. "It's my dollar and I want it back."

When I told her it was too late, she got out and opened my car door. "Well, we'll just see about that," she said.

30 The hippie looked over in our direction, and I lowered myself in the seat. "Mom, please. You can't do this." It was touch-and-go for a moment, but I knew she'd stop short of actually dragging me from the station wagon. "Can't we put this behind us? I'll pay you back when we get home. Really, I swear."

35 She watched me cower<sup>1</sup> and then she got back into the driver's seat. "You think everyone who asks for money actually needs it? God, are you gullible."

The spare-change girl seemed to have started a trend. On my next trip to the Kwik Pik I was hit up by another hippie – this one a guy – who squatted on the ground in front of the ice machine. He saw me approach and held out his leather hat. "Greetings, brother,"

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<sup>1</sup> cower = cringe

he said. "Think you could manage to help a friend?"

40 I handed over the fifty cents I'd planned to spend on Coke and potato chips, and then I leaned against a post, watching this hippie and studying his ways. Some people, the cool people who had no extra money, made it a point to say, "Sorry, man," or "You know how it is." The hippie would nod, as if to familiar music, and the cool person would do the same. The uncool people passed without stopping, but still you could see that the hippie  
45 held a strange power over them. "Spare change? A dime? A quarter?" It was a small amount that asked a big question : "Care ye not about your fellow man?" It helped, I thought, that he bore such a striking resemblance to Jesus, who was rumored to be returning any day now.

I watched for half an hour, and then the cashier came out, fluttering his hands as if  
50 they were whisk brooms. "We can't have you hassling<sup>2</sup> the customers," he said. "Go on, now. Scoot."

*Hassle*<sup>2</sup> was a young person's word, and coming from a full-grown man, it sounded goofy, reminding me of the way movie cowboys used the word *amigo*. I wanted the hippie to stand up for himself, to say, "Cool it Baldie," or "Who's hassling who?" but instead he  
55 just shrugged. It was almost elegant, the way he picked himself up off the ground and crossed the parking lot to what was most likely his parents' car. It didn't matter that he probably lived at home, criticizing the system during the day and sleeping each night in a comfortable bed. He'd maybe put my quarters toward some luxury – incense maybe, or guitar strings – but that was no big deal, either. He was a grown-up's worst nightmare,  
60 and, minus the hat, I wanted to be just like him.

David Sedaris. *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*. Little, Brown & Co, 2004

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<sup>2</sup> Hassle = annoy

Vous traiterez les questions dans l'ordre, en indiquant clairement leur numéro sur votre copie. Vous répondrez aux questions en anglais et par des phrases complètes. Vous accompagnerez les citations de la mention de la ligne.

## I – COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION

1. Make a list of all the characters present and mentioned in the text. Mention gender and approximate age whenever possible, and where the two scenes take place.

### Concentrate on lines 1 to 48

2. What did the narrator do with the ten-dollar bill? (2 elements). What was the mother's reaction? (2 elements) Then what did she want the narrator to do? What does it reveal about her personality?
3. Choose three of the following adjectives which can be used to describe the child's reactions and explain them. Justify with three quotations from the text.  
*perceptive / indifferent / grateful / sensible / defiant / embarrassed*
4. Lines 40 to 48 : *"I handed over the 50 cents ... returning any day now."* Explain – in your own words — what 'cool' and 'uncool' people are, according to the narrator's description of their reactions. (50 words)

### The whole text

5. Show that the narrator was fascinated with hippies. Why did he want to belong to that world? (40 words). Quote briefly three elements from the text to justify your answer.
6. Analyse the narrator's relationship with adults. (60 words)
7. Translate from line 13 *"What was that?"* to line 16 *"You gave her my dollar."* and from line 24 *"I offered to pay..."* to line 25 *"I want that one."*

## II - EXPRESSION

- Les candidats de **série S** choisiront de traiter **l'UN des deux sujets**, au choix (200 mots environ).

- Les candidats de série L devront **obligatoirement traiter les deux sujets** (150 mots environ x 2 = 300 mots au total).

1. Some time later the narrator comes home dressed as a hippie. Imagine the scene with his mother.
2. What good can come out of conflicts between teenagers and parents?.