

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2007

ANGLAIS – LVI

Séries ES-S

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 3

L'usage des calculatrices et de tout dictionnaire est interdit.

Barème appliqué pour la correction

<i>Compréhension écrite</i>	<i>10 points</i>
<i>Expression</i>	<i>10 points</i>

Ce sujet comporte 4 pages.

Daytona Beach, Florida, summer of seventy-seven. It is sunny, glamorous, and full of college students, Vietnam vets, and crazed loons of surfers looking for waves. It's so different, so teeming with vitality, so tropical and exotic, so tacky¹ and exciting, so unbearably hot and here we are, three milk-bottle white Irish girls traipsing the main drag looking for summer jobs. It's a far cry from war-torn Belfast, I can tell you, and *nothing* but *nothing* will make me go back there, at least not for a while. I have finished my finals and at present am awaiting the results of my degree. I have absolutely not a clue what I want to do with my life, despite my mother's fervent hope that the nuns will turn up a *wee teaching job* for me, even though, against their 'wishes', I did Social Anthropology. Well, this is as good a place to study another tribe as the next. I won't even allow my friend Patricia's endless whinging to dent my optimism. She's at it now.

'This is all your fault, Maggie Lennon. You told us it'd be far easier to get jobs here, so you did.' Patricia sniffs loudly, self-pity bubbling up in her throat. 'And I can't stick this heat; it's not natural for people from Ireland to live here—'

She pauses in the middle of her tirade to adjust her cork-heeled platform sandals. I bite my tongue. Maureen, my other friend, says nothing. She has learned not to interrupt Patricia's rants; it only winds her up more. I adjust the cheap sunglasses I bought yesterday for a dollar and squint back at my two friends. Their white legs look almost luminous. I feel so alien, yet I am deliriously happy to be here and feel the hot sun beating down on me. It is so bright and blinding, but Patricia has a point; we are in a bit of a fix right enough. We've been here almost three days now and not the slightest sniff of a job. I alone of the three of us am hopeful we'll get jobs soon. We had better. We have only about fifty dollars left. We are staying in a tacky motel well away from the seafront; three of us in one double bed. Not pleasant.

'Do you need another sticking plaster?' Maureen offers one to Patricia in an effort to placate² her. Patricia sits on a low wall and attempts to get it to stick to her squelchy feet.

'And another thing – that fella in the chemist – you'd have thought I was speaking Greek. Imagine! *band aids*.' Patricia spits the word out. 'Why in the name of God would you call a plaster a *band aid*?' She steps down from her shoes and surveys her ruined feet. I don't point out that if she'd brought proper sandals this wouldn't have happened. We are outside a restaurant that overlooks the beach.

'Let's go in here and get a Coke,' I say. 'Look, it says it's air-conditioned.'

Grumbling, they both follow me into Paesano's Perfect Pasta and Pizzeria. I order three Cokes and a waitress brings them to our table. They are massive and seem to be composed entirely of ice with a dribble of Coke. We sip them gratefully. It is so cool inside, cool and dark; the temperature is practically freezing. I'm getting used to this. Burning up one minute, teeth chattering the next; it's interesting.

'Maybe we should have taken those jobs in Asbury Park³ after all,' Maureen ventures.

'Hmmm!' Patricia snorts with derision. She stares accusingly at me.

'Well, everybody else from Ireland was going to New Jersey; it seemed a good idea to come here. Anyway, we haven't met any other Irish people. I'm sure we'll be a rarity and get more tips.'

'A rarity, a rarity! Maybe we could get jobs in the zoo.'

'Do you think we *will* get jobs, Maggie?' Maureen sounds worried.

'Sure, maybe they need people here.' I hope I sound more confident than I feel. I get up and walk over to the waitress and ask her if there is a manager I can speak to. She tells me the owner will be back in half an hour. I go back to the table. 'The owner will be here in half an hour. I'm going to wait.'

'The place is half empty, I doubt if you'd make much working here.' Maureen sounds dubious.

'Wait if you want,' Patricia announces. 'I'm going to try the hotels.'

Two Cokes later, the owner arrives. He is a squat little peasant with a tanned, gnome-like face. He is solid, rather than fat, with very white teeth and the palest blue eyes. I go over to him. I am officially freezing now, my teeth are chattering.

'I'm looking for a job as a waitress.'

¹ tacky: in bad taste and/or cheap

² placate: make someone less angry

³ Asbury Park: seaside resort town in New Jersey

'No vacancies for waitresses'. The blue eyes stare unflinchingly at me – not offensively though.
55 'Where are you from?' he asks eventually, adding: 'It's too late in the season to get jobs.'
'I'm from Belfast, Northern Ireland. How is it too late? It's only June.'
He shrugs. 'Season starts in May.'
'Where are you from?' I ask. 'You aren't American.'
For a moment I think he isn't going to answer. 'Everyone's an American – eventually.' He
60 smiles finally. 'Greece via New Jersey.'
'I've been to Greece every summer until now,' I tell him. 'I love Greece.'
'What's your name?'
'Maggie Lennon.'
He indicates for me to sit down, and pours us both a coffee. It is bitter. It burns my mouth.
'Tell me about Greece.'
65 An hour later I have a job, and he agrees to see Maureen and Patricia. He says he'll fire some
people. That's the way it works in America. You see something or someone you like better,
you swap.

Annie MacCartney, *Your Cheatin' Heart*, 2005

I. COMPRÉHENSION

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

Les candidats traiteront le sujet **sur la copie qui leur sera fournie** en respectant l'**ordre des questions** et en faisant apparaître la **numérotation** (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant, ex: 15b - **voir en particulier les questions 1, 2, 4, 5, 9 et 10**). Ils composeront des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqué constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée. Les **citations** seront limitées aux éléments **pertinents** et précédées de la mention de la ligne.

1. a) Say who the four main characters are.
b) What are their countries of origin? Quote the text to support your answer.

2. Give the names of the characters the underlined pronouns refer to.
a) lines 3-4: *here we are*
b) line 6: *I have finished my finals*

3. Who is the narrator?

4. a) Where does the story take place? (country and city)
b) What's the weather like? Pick out three elements to justify your answer.

Questions 5 to 8. Focus on the passage from line 1 to line 29.

5. True or False? Justify your answer each time with a quotation from the text.
 - a) The scene takes place nowadays.
 - b) The female characters are trying to find work.
 - c) The narrator's looking forward to going home.
 - d) The narrator's a fully qualified teacher.
 - e) The female characters are all confident about the near future.

6. line 19: *Patricia has a point; we are in a bit of a fix right enough.*
Find two other quotations to confirm that they are in a vulnerable financial situation.

7. Why is Patricia feeling so sad and low? (20 words)

8. Explain what the problem at the chemist's was. (30 words)

Questions 9 to 14. Focus on the passage from line 30 to the end of the text.

9. a) Where exactly is the second scene set?
b) Why do the female characters initially choose to go there?

10. line 37: *She stares accusingly at me.*
a) Say who the underlined pronoun refers to.
b) What is this character accused of by the other two? (20 words)

11. Who does the narrator decide to wait for and why?

12. Explain what objections the male character raises. Quote the text to justify your answer.

13. What strategy does the narrator use to persuade this male character? (30 words)

14. What are the consequences of the narrator's efforts? (20 words)

II. EXPRESSION

Choose subject 1 or subject 2.

Subject 1:

"Travel broadens the mind", as the saying goes. Do you think that the more you travel, the more open-minded you become? (300 words)

Subject 2:

a) In your choice of a career, are you ready to go against your parents' wishes? (150 words)
b) You are the narrator. Write a letter to a friend back home telling of your first days in Florida. (150 words)