

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

SESSION 2008

ANGLAIS

Serie L et S

LANGUE VIVANTE 2

Série L

Durée 3 heures - Coefficient 4

Série S

Durée 2 heures - Coefficient 2

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

Comprehension et Expression:	10 points
Traduction:	10 points

1 The only person who saw Paul and Malvina leaving the party together was Doug
Anderton. He was standing by himself, leaning against a wall, composing in his head the
first few sentences of an article for Sunday's paper.

 He had not been looking out for Paul, although he knew he was probably in the room.
5 His gaze was fixed, instead, on a scene unfolding in the corner of the restaurant nearest to
the entrance, where the young couple who had arrived just behind Paul in a white stretch
limo were enjoying the attentions of a crowd of journalists and photographers. This couple,
whom Paul had not recognized, had last year been two of the contestants on Britain's most
popular primetime reality TV show. For weeks they had kept the public guessing as to
10 whether or not they were going to have sex with each other on camera. The tabloid papers
had devoted hundreds of column inches to the subject. Neither of them had talent, or
wisdom, or education, or even much personality to speak of. But they were young and good-
looking, and they dressed well, and they had been on television, and that was enough. And
so the photographers kept taking pictures, and the journalists kept trying to make them say
15 something quotable or amusing (which was difficult, because they had no wit, either).
Meanwhile, Doug could not help noticing, right next to them, waiting for his wife to emerge
from the ladies', the figure of Professor John Copland: Britain's leading geneticist, one of its
better-selling science writers, and regularly mentioned as a potential Nobel prizewinner. But
no one was taking his photograph, or asking him to say anything. He could have been a cab
20 driver, waiting to drive one of the guests home, as far as anybody else was concerned. And
for Doug, this situation encapsulated so perfectly everything he wanted to say about Britain
in 2002—the obscene *weightlessness* of its cultural life, the grotesque triumph of sheen¹ over
substance, all the clichés which were only clichés, as it happened, because they were true—
that he was, perversely, pleased to be witnessing it.

25 Doug watched the distinguished professor standing patiently with two coats over his
arm, and watched the celebrity couple, basking in their tenuous fame, and he was as
hypnotized, in his own way, as the tabloid journalists who were desperately trying to coax²
an interesting remark out of them. As he tried to commit every detail of the scene to
memory, it was only out of the corner of his eye that he noticed Paul Trotter leaving the
30 restaurant with his arm around Malvina, their heads together in a halo of self-absorbed
intimacy. Though that, when he thought about it, was interesting too.

Jonathan Coe, *The Closed Circle*, 2004

¹ sheen : brightness

² coax : obtain something with soft words or flattery

NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

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

-respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie.

(numéro et lettre repère, le cas échéant ; ex. : 8b)

-faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne.

-composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

-respecter le nombre de mots indiqué qui constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée.

I -COMPREHENSION

1. When and where does the party take place? (country and precise location)
2. Make a list of the characters present in the room. Give their names when possible.
3.
 - a) Who is the observer? Justify with a quotation.
 - b) What's his job? Justify with a quotation.
4.
 - a) Which couple attracts everyone's attention?
 - b) What makes their arrival so spectacular? (20-30 words)
 - c) Quote one sentence showing how they became celebrities.
5.
 - a) Quote the three reasons why the media are interested in them.
 - b) Find five qualities they don't have.
 - c) Why is it hard for the journalists to work with the couple?
Use your own w'ords. (20-30 words)
6.
 - a) Say in your own words what makes John Copland a "distinguished professor". (1.25)
(10-20 words)
 - b) Describe the attitude of the media present in the room towards him.
(15-20 words + two quotations)
7. Explain in your own words why the situation illustrates the "weightlessness" of "cultural life".
(1. 22) (20-30 words)
8. Pick out two adjectives from the text showing that Doug disapproves of the situation.

Seuls les candidats de la Série L traiteront cette Question.

9. Translate from "He was standing..." (l. 2) to "...journalists and photographers." (l. 7)

II -EXPRESSION

Les candidats de la Série S choisiront de traiter l'UN des deux sujets au choix (200 mots).

Les candidats de la Série L devront obligatoirement traiter les DEUX sujets (300 mots au total, soit environ 150 mots pour chaque sujet).

1. Doug writes an article entitled "The Superficiality of Celebrity Culture" for his Sunday paper. Write the article.

2. Would you be prepared to be a contestant on a reality TV show?