

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2009

ANGLAIS LV 1

Série L

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient : 4

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

*Dès que le sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.
Ce sujet comporte 5 pages numérotées de 1/5 à 5/5.*

BARÈME

COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION	14 pts
TRADUCTION	6 pts

Matthew had spent only a very short time in the company of Big Lou's fiancé, Eddie, but had decided that he did not like him. It was not one of those dislikes that develops with time, matures as more and more is learned of a person's irritating habits and faults; it was, rather, a dislike based on an immediate assessment of character, made on first meeting and never thereafter doubted. We make such judgements all the time, often on the basis of appearance, bearing, and, most importantly, the look of the eyes. Matthew's father had instilled this habit in his son and had defended it vigorously.

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10 'Take a look at the eyes, Matt,' he had said. 'The old adage that they are the windows of the soul is absolutely dead right. They tell the whole story.'

'But how can eyes, just bits of tissue after all ...?'

Gordon had interrupted his son's protest. 'They can. They just do. Shifty eyes – shifty chap. I've found it time after time in my business career. All the human failings are there – and the good qualities, too. You only have to ... sorry, this is unintentional, keep your eyes open to pick it up.'

15 'Give me some examples,' said Matthew.

His father thought for a moment. 'All right. Richard Nixon. President of the United States for a good long time. If the voters had looked at his eyes, they would have realised. Scheming. Untruthful.'

20 'But that's because you knew what he was like,' said Matthew. 'If Nixon had been a saint, you would have thought his eyes looked saintly.' He paused. 'You've heard of phrenology, have you, Dad?'

Gordon frowned. 'It sounds familiar, but ...'

Matthew was accustomed to filling in the gaps in his father's knowledge. 'They were the people who looked at the head. At the bumps. At the face, too.'

25 Gordon looked interested. 'Well? What's wrong with that?'

'Because the shape of your head has nothing to do with what you're like inside,' said Matthew. 'Character comes from ...' He hesitated. Where did character come from? The way you were brought up? Genes? Or a bit of both? 'From the mind,' he said. 'That's where character comes from.'

30 Gordon nodded. 'And the mind shows itself physically, doesn't it? Well, don't shake your head like that – which, incidentally, proves my point. Your shaking head shows a state of mind within you. Yes, it does. It does.'

Matthew sighed. 'Nobody believes in phrenology any more, Dad. It's so ... so nineteenth century.'

35 'Oh is it?' challenged Gordon. 'And you think they knew nothing in the nineteenth century? Is that what you're saying? Well, I'm telling you this: I judge a man by the cut of his jib¹. I can tell.'

The argument had fizzled out, and later that day Matthew had stolen a glance at himself in the mirror, at his eyes. They had flecks² of grey, of course, a feature which some girls had found interesting, and attractive, but which now seemed to Matthew to say something about his personality: he was a grey-flecked person. He knew that phrenology was nonsense, and yet, years later, he found himself making judgements similar to those made by his father; slippery people looked slippery; they really did. And how we become like our parents! How their scorned advice – based, we felt in our superiority, on prejudices and muddled folk wisdom – how their opinions are subsequently borne out by³ our own discoveries and sense of the world,

¹ the cut of his jib : his appearance

² flecks : small dots, marks or spots

³ borne out by : confirmed by

one after one. And as this happens, we realise with increasing horror that proposition which we would never have entertained before: our mothers were right!

50 Had the scorned phrenologists got their hands on Eddie, they would have reached much the same conclusion as had Matthew. Eddie had a thin face – not in itself a matter for judgement – but a thin face combined with shifty, darting eyes and topped with greasy, unwashed hair conveyed an impression of seediness⁴. It was, quite simply, not the face of an honest person – or so Matthew had concluded on first
55 encountering Eddie.

Alexander McCall Smith, *Love Over Scotland*, 2006

⁴ seediness: a seedy person or place looks dirty, shabby, poor and / or disreputable.

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). 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 (moins de 20 mots) à la question posée.

COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION

1.
 - a. List the characters and say (when possible) how they are related.
 - b. From whose point of view is the story told?
 - c. Is Matthew's conversation with Gordon imagined, remembered or happening now?

Matthew and Eddie (focus on the first and last paragraphs)

2. How does Matthew feel about Eddie? (one element)
3. Is his feeling based on a long time spent with Eddie or on his first meeting with him? Justify with two quotations.
4. How is Eddie described? Make a list of the details which are (a) objective and (b) subjective.

Matthew and Gordon (focus on lines 5 to 38)

5. What does 'this habit' (l.7) refer to?
6.
 - a. Explain what Gordon means by (l.9-10) 'they are the windows of the soul'.
 - b. Why is he convinced of the truth of this adage? Justify by quoting from the text.
 - c. Who does he mention to illustrate his point?
7.
 - a. What part of the body were phrenologists interested in? Why?
 - b. What is Gordon's opinion of phrenology? Justify by quoting from the text.
 - c. Does Matthew agree with Gordon? What arguments does he give to defend his point of view? (three elements)
8. Are the following statements true or false? Justify your answer by quoting from the text.
 - a. Gordon is resolute in his beliefs.
 - b. Matthew thinks character comes from the genes.
 - c. Matthew feels inferior to his father.

Matthew's thoughts (focus on line 39 to the end)

9. How has Matthew's point of view changed over the years concerning his own eyes?
10. Answer these questions about Matthew's thoughts:
 - a. In lines 45 to 49, who does 'we' refer to? And who does 'their' refer to?
 - b. According to Matthew, what do we think of our parents' advice and opinions when we are young?
 - c. What happens to us as we grow up?
 - d. How do we feel about this?

Comparing past and present

11. Explain what is ironic about the way Matthew has changed over the years. Use his judgement of Eddie to illustrate this. (40 words)

12. Choose one of the following subjects: subject 1 (a + b) **OR** subject 2.

Subject 1:

- a. Matthew tries to convince Big Lou to break up with Eddie. Imagine their conversation. (150 words)
- b. What habits and faults do you find most irritating in other people? (150 words)

Subject 2:

"We make such judgements all the time, often on the basis of appearance, bearing, and, most importantly, the look of the eyes." (lines 5-7)
Comment on this statement. (300 words)

TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 1 to line 8: "Matthew had spent ... vigorously."