

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

ANGLAIS

SERIE S

LANGUE VIVANTE 2

Durée : 2 heures

Coefficient : 2

**NOTE IMPORTANTE**

- ◆ Les réponses doivent impérativement être portées sur la copie d'examen à en-tête.
- ◆ Il est inutile de recopier les questions posées. En revanche, il faudra inscrire scrupuleusement les numéros et/ou lettres des questions de chaque exercice.
- ◆ Les réponses devront impérativement être proposées dans le même ordre que celui de la feuille de sujet.

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

COMPREHENSION	10 points
EXPRESSION	10 points

Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien 3 pages numérotées de 1/3 à 3/3 .

Jo knew what she should do. She should get the evening papers at lunch-time, read all the advertisements for flats, and as soon as she saw one that looked suitable, she should rush round at once and sit on the doorstep. Never mind if the advertisement said 'After six o'clock'. She knew that if she went at six o'clock, and the flat was a good one, she'd probably find a queue of people all down the street. Finding a good flat in Dublin, at a rent you could afford, was like finding gold in the gold rush.

The other way was by personal contact. If you knew someone who knew someone who was leaving a flat... That was often a good way. But for somebody who had only just arrived in Dublin, there was no chance of any personal contact. No, it was a matter of staying in a hostel and searching.

There had been a lot of jokes about her going to work in the Post Office. There'd be no trouble in getting a stamp to write a letter home; what's more, there'd be no excuse if she didn't. She could make the occasional secret free phone call, too ... which would be fine, except that her family didn't have a phone at home. Maybe she could send a ten-page telegram if she needed to say anything in a hurry. People assumed that she would soon know everything about people's private business in Dublin, in the same way as Miss Hayes knew everyone's business from the post office at home. They said that she'd find it very easy to get to know people. There was nowhere like a post office for making friends; it was the centre of everything.

Jo knew that she would be working in a small local post office, but her dreams of life in Dublin had been about the big General Post Office in the centre. She had imagined herself working there, chatting up all the customers as they came in, and knowing every single person who came to buy stamps or collect the children's allowances. She had dreamt of living somewhere nearby, in the heart of the city, maybe on the corner of O'Connell Bridge, so that she could look at the Liffey River from her bedroom.

She had never expected the miles and miles of streets where nobody knew anyone, the endless bus journeys, and setting off for work very early in the morning in case she got lost or the bus was cancelled.

'Not much time for a social life,' she wrote home. 'I'm so exhausted when I get back to the hostel that I just go to bed and fall asleep.'

She answered the advertisement for the flat in Ringsend. It said, *Own room, own television, share kitchen, bathroom*. It was very near her post office and seemed too good to be true. Please, God, please. I hope it's nice, I hope they like me, I hope it's not too expensive.

There wasn't a queue for this one because it wasn't really a flat to rent; the advertisement had said, *Third girl wanted*. Jo wondered if 'own television' meant that the place was too expensive or too high-class for her, but the house did not look very frightening. It was in a row of ordinary, red-brick houses with basements. Her father had warned her against basements; they were full of damp, he said, but then her father had a bad chest and saw damp everywhere. But the flat was not in the basement, it was upstairs. And a cheerful-looking girl wearing a university scarf, obviously a failed applicant, was coming down the stairs.

'Dreadful place,' she said to Jo. 'The girls are both awful. As common as dirt.'

'Oh,' said Jo and went on climbing.

Maeve Binchy, *Dublin People - Short stories*, 2000.

## I – COMPREHENSION

- 1) What was Jo looking for, and why was it so difficult to find? (40 words)
- 2) What image did people from her hometown have of work in the post office? (40 words)
- 3) Before going to Dublin, what was her vision of the perfect life there? (40 words)
- 4) How different from her dreams was her actual life? How did she feel about the situation? (40 words)
- 5) What were the advantages and disadvantages of the flat in Ringsend? (30 words)
- 6) a) What was the cheerful-looking girl's impression of the flat and its occupants? Justify by quoting the text. (30 words)  
b) How did it affect the main character? (20 words)

## II – EXPRESSION

Les candidats traiteront au choix un seul des deux sujets. (150 mots +/- 10 %)

1. "Oh," said Jo and went on climbing." Imagine what happens next.
2. If you moved to a new town, would you prefer to live on your own or to share a flat with other people? Give arguments to support your answer.