

**Session 2009**

**BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL**

**ANGLAIS**

**Langue vivante 1**

**Séries ES - S**

**Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 3**

**L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.**

<b>Compréhension</b>	<b>10 points</b>
<b>Expression</b>	<b>10 points</b>

**Le sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/4 à 4/4.**

Shortly after Baba's death, Soraya and I moved into a one-bedroom apartment in Fremont, just a few blocks away from the general and Jamila's house. Soraya's parents bought us a brown leather couch and a set of dishes as house-warming presents. The general gave me an additional present, a brand-new IBM typewriter. In the box, he had slipped a note written in Farsi:

Dear Amir,

I hope you discover many tales on these keys.

General Iqbal Taheri

Soraya and I settled into the routines – and minor wonders – of married life. We shared tooth-brushes and socks, passed each other the morning paper. She slept on the right side of the bed, I preferred the left. She liked fluffy pillows, I liked the hard ones. She ate her cereal dry, like a snack, and chased it with milk.

I got my acceptance at San Jose State that summer and declared an English major. I took on a security job, swing shift at a furniture warehouse in Sunnyvale. The job was dreadfully boring but its saving grace was a considerable one: when everyone left at 6 p.m. and shadows began to crawl between aisles of plastic-covered sofas piled to the ceiling, I took out my books and studied. It was in the Pine-Sol-scented office of that furniture warehouse that I began my first novel.

Soraya joined me at San Jose State the following year and enrolled, to her father's chagrin, in the teaching track.

"I don't know why you're wasting your talents like this," the general said one night over dinner. "Did you know, dear Amir, that she earned nothing but A's in high school?" He turned to her. "An intelligent girl like you could become a lawyer, a political scientist. And, *Inshallah*, when Afghanistan is free, you could help write the new constitution. There would be a need for young talented Afghans like you. They might even offer you a ministry position, given your family name."

I could see Soraya holding back, her face tightening. "I'm not a girl, *Padar*. I'm a married woman. Besides, they'd need teachers too."

"Anyone can teach."

"Is there anymore rice, *Madar*?" Soraya said.

After the general excused himself to meet some friends in Hayward, Jamila tried to console Soraya. "He means well," she said. "He just wants you to be successful."

"So he can boast about his attorney daughter to his friends. Another medal for the general," Soraya said.

"Such nonsense you speak!"

"Successful," Soraya hissed. "At least I'm not like him, sitting around while other people fight the *Soviets*, waiting for when the dust settles so he can move in and reclaim his posh little government position. Teaching may not pay much, but it's what I want to do! It's what I love, and it's a whole lot better than collecting welfare, by the way."

Jamila bit her tongue. "If he ever hears you saying that, he will never speak to you again."

"Don't worry," Soraya snapped, tossing her napkin on the plate. "I won't bruise his precious ego".

## COMPRÉHENSION

### NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

*Vous traiterez les questions **dans l'ordre**, en indiquant clairement leur **numéro et la lettre** sur votre copie (ex : 3b). Lorsque la réponse doit être développée, le nombre de mots sera indiqué dans la question ; ce nombre de mots constitue une exigence minimale.*

*En l'absence d'indications, vous répondrez brièvement (moins de 20 mots) à la question posée.*

*Les **citations** seront limitées aux éléments **pertinents** et précédées de la mention de la ligne.*

### OVERALL COMPREHENSION

1. Read the whole text and answer the following questions:
  - a. How many characters are present? Give their names and say who the narrator is.
  - b. How are they related?
2. Where have these characters emigrated from? Justify with one quotation.
3. Select the correct definition for the following words from the text:
  - a. "Farsi" (l.5): a special dish / an Afghan dialect / a type of literature
  - b. "San Jose State" (l.13): a university / a business company / a housing estate
  - c. "swing shift" (l.14): work at night / work in the morning / work in the afternoon
  - d. "Padar and Madar" (l. 27 and 30): husband and wife / grandfather and grandmother / father and mother
  - e. "welfare" (l. 40): well-being / government benefit / postcards

### PART ONE: READ FROM LINE 1 TO 20

4. Answer the questions and justify:
  - a. What does the narrator want to become? (2 quotations)
  - b. What is the narrator's main activity? (1 quotation)
  - c. What is Soraya's main activity? (1 quotation)
5. How does the narrator make money? In your own words, give the advantage(s) and drawback(s) of what he does for a living. (30 words)

### PART TWO: READ FROM LINE 21 TO THE END

6. Who is present from line 21 to 30?
7. Are all the characters still present from line 31 to the end? If not, explain.

### **Concentrate on lines 21 to 30**

8. Say if the following statements are TRUE or FALSE and justify your answer by quoting from the text.
  - a. The general and his family fled their native country because of a natural disaster.
  - b. The general knows his daughter will never go back to their native country.
  - c. The general comes from a family with an important social status.

9. Answer:

- a. Pick out the 4 jobs mentioned in the conversation.
- b. In your own words, say what the general thinks of Soraya's choice of career. Explain why.

10. "Besides, **they'd** need teachers too" (l.28): who does "they" refer to?

11. "I'm not a girl, Padar, I'm a married woman" (l.27-28). What does this sentence mean? Choose one or several possibilities among the following.

- a. Soraya rejects the general's authority over her.
- b. Soraya reminds the general that she is an adult.
- c. Soraya would not be allowed to work in her native country because she is married.

**Concentrate on lines 31 to the end**

12. What is the main subject of the conversation?

13. Who do the following pronouns refer to?

- a. "**He** means well" (l.32)
- b. "**she** said" (l.32)
- c. "Such nonsense **you** speak" (l.35)
- d. "At least I'm not like **him**" (l.36)

14. "Such nonsense you speak" (l.35). Who says this?

15. What does the character who says "Such nonsense you speak" (l.35) intend to do throughout this conversation? (30 words) Find 2 quotations to illustrate your answer.

16. "At least I'm not like him ... government position" (l.36 to 38). Soraya thinks the general is:

*a coward / successful / self-centred / not respectable / powerful*  
(Choose the right answers)

**REREAD THE WHOLE PASSAGE FROM LINE 21 TO THE END**

17. In your own words, explain what opposes Soraya to the general. Make sure you structure your answer using link words. (50 words)

## EXPRESSION

**Subject 1:**

- a. In your opinion, which jobs require more training than others? Explain why some do and others don't. (150 words)
- b. The general asks the narrator to try and convince Soraya to change her mind about her career. Imagine the conversation between the General and the narrator. (150 words)

**Subject 2:**

Do you think your parents should have a say over your choice of career? (300 words)