

Session 2009

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 2

Série L : *durée 3 heures - coefficient 4*

Série S : *durée 2 heures - coefficient 2*

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Compréhension :	10 points
Expression :	10 points

Le sujet comporte 4 pages.

The narrator is called Sarah.

On a winter's day in January under a watery sun, my plane touches down at Charles de Gaulle airport. Once again I'm struck by the ambivalent appearance of the place. I wonder if this rundown spaceship is a sort of metaphor for France; if this country is in some respects ultramodern and sophisticated yet in other ways behind the times. But a couple of things are different from my arrival here last summer. The weather, for starters. And this time Frédéric's punctual! Waiting for me with a spare, thick woolly jumper because it's an especially cold day and he's worried I'll freeze outside. We met up for only one weekend in the last four months but we spoke a lot over the phone and gradually going to Paris had come to seem like the only sensible solution. There'd been no talk of whether I'll give it two months, six months, or a year. Like many life-changing decisions, the move to Paris was decided with little thought of the consequences. I am totally ignorant of what lies in store.

Frédéric is not the sole reason for staying on in Europe, though. The truth is, I'm not ready to go home. And feeling ready is hugely important when your country is so far away from the rest of the world. No Australian or New Zealander wants to end their working holiday in London only to be haunted later by the thought of unlived adventures. Because once you go all the way back, you're there to stay, goes the logic. Oh sure, you'll travel and go abroad again but future trips will not stretch towards infinity like this one, they won't contain so many possibilities. Heading home is the fullstop marking the end of adventure; the beginning of a responsible life. And despite twelve months of travelling, I am not ready to be responsible.

The television network I worked for in Sydney had given me one year leave without pay from my job. Sitting at the dining table of what is now my new home, I write to say I'm not coming back. This is not an especially difficult decision. I'd spent five good years at the Special Broadcasting Service, the national television network set up to serve Australia's ethnic communities. But now, in my late twenties, I'm wary¹ of being stuck in a professional rut². The time seems right to take a risk. In my mind, Europe is simmering with exciting opportunities for a journalist. It's just a matter of finding them.

Still, the prospect of living in France is daunting³. I have no job, no friends here and I barely speak the language. Frédéric and I are living together after little more than a month in each other's company – by any reasonable standards a ridiculously short time for such a serious move. This recklessness is both scary and sort of exciting. It's also totally out of character – in Australia I'd have thought this was mad, shacking up⁴ before the relationship has even got off the ground. What a recipe for disaster! But risks seem less alarming in a new and foreign environment where you can't measure your behaviour by familiar yardsticks such as family or friends or society in general. Besides, it's not like we have another option. Even if I had enough money (which I don't), renting my own apartment would be almost impossible. Having entered the country as a tourist, strictly speaking I'm not allowed to remain in France longer than three months.

But none of this can dampen my overriding feeling that somehow all of this is *right*: Frédéric; being in France; taking a professional risk.

Sarah Turnbull, *Almost French*, 2002

¹ wary: afraid

² rut: routine

³ daunting: intimidating

⁴ shacking up: living with somebody

NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

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

- a) respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie (numéro et lettres repères le cas échéant, ex. 7c) ;
- b) faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne ;
- c) composer des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

COMPRÉHENSION

1. Give information about Sarah (approximate age, former occupation, country of origin). (20 words maximum)
2. a) Copy the following sentences and fill in the blanks using the elements given below.

London – Paris – Sydney

First Sarah worked in Then she spent some time in Now she is in

b) Fill in the blanks with the corresponding periods of time taken from the text. Copy the completed sentences.

- Sarah worked in her country of origin for
- Sarah temporarily had a break from work for
- Sarah has been travelling across Europe for

3. Lines 12-13: 'The truth is, I'm not *ready* to go home.'

a) What does "home" refer to?

b) So what has Sarah decided to do?

Choose the correct statement from the list below.

Sarah has decided to

- rent a flat in Paris
- work for a television channel in London
- stay in Paris
- visit a friend in London

4. The scene takes place in two different locations in the same city. Which ones? (Give them in the chronological order)

Location 1:

Location 2:

5. Focus on the passage from line 1 down to line 11.

a) Apart from Sarah, name the character also present in the scene.

b) What is this character present for?

c) Give the two reasons why Sarah finds this character caring. (15-20 words)

Focus on the passage from line 12 down to the end

6. Sarah uses words such as "adventures" (line 15) and "risks" (line 33). Explain how they apply to:
- a) her love life. (10-15 words)
 - b) the country she has chosen to live in. (10-15 words)
 - c) her professional life. (10-15 words)

Read the whole text again.

7. Are the following statements right (R) or wrong (W)? Justify your answers by quoting from the text.
- a) Sarah has a very negative view of France.
 - b) For Sarah, travelling the world is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
 - c) Living in another country makes Sarah more audacious.

Seuls les candidats de la série L réaliseront les exercices 8 et 9.

8. Fill in the blanks with words taken from the text. One blank is one word. Copy the paragraph.
- (a) her hesitations, Sarah has made her (b) to (c)..... . Heading back to her country of origin would be (d)..... ; (e)..... , she is ready to take a (f)The prospect of (g) does not prevent her from feeling she is (h)
9. Traduire en français le passage de 'And this time ...' (ligne 5) à '... the only sensible solution' (ligne 9).

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).

Sujet 1: A few days later, Sarah phones her mother to tell her she is not coming home. Write the conversation.

Sujet 2: If you had the opportunity, would you go and spend a year in a foreign country? Discuss the pros and cons.