

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2010

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Séries ES_S

Durée de l'épreuve : 3 heures – Coefficient : 3

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

**Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.
Ce sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.**

Compréhension Écrite	10 points
Expression	10 points

When the results appeared in the morning papers, Rakesh scanned them, barefoot and in his pyjamas, at the garden gate, then went up the steps to the veranda where his father sat sipping his morning tea and bowed down to touch his feet.

'A first division, son?' his father asked, beaming, reaching for the papers.

5 'At the top of the list, Papa,' Rakesh murmured, as if awed. 'First in the country.'

Bedlam¹ broke loose then. The family whooped and danced. The whole day long visitors streamed into the small yellow house at the end of the road, to congratulate the parents of this *Wunderkind*, to slap Rakesh on the back and fill the house and garden with the sounds and colours of a festival. There were garlands and
10 *halwa*, party clothes and gifts (enough fountain pens to last years, even a watch or two), nerves and temper and joy, all in a multicoloured whirl of pride and great shining vistas newly opened : Rakesh was the first son in the family to receive an education, so much had been sacrificed in order to send him to school and then
15 medical college, and at last the fruits of their sacrifice had arrived, golden and glorious.

To everyone who came to him to say, '*Mubarak, Varmaji*, your son has brought you glory,' the father said, 'Yes, and do you know what is the first thing he did when he saw the results this morning? He came and touched my feet. He bowed
20 down and touched my feet.' This moved many of the women in the crowd so much that they were seen to raise the ends of their saris and dab at their tears while the men reached out for the betel leaves and sweetmeats that were offered around on trays and shook their heads in wonder and approval of such exemplary filial behaviour. 'One does not often see such behaviour in sons any more,' they all
25 agreed, a little enviously perhaps. Leaving the house, some of the women said, sniffing, 'At least on such an occasion they might have served pure *ghee* sweets,' and some of the men said, 'Don't you think old Varma was giving himself airs? He needn't think we don't remember that he comes from the vegetable market himself, his father used to sell vegetables, and he has never seen the inside of a school.' But
30 there was more envy than rancour in their voices and it was, of course, inevitable - not every son in that shabby little colony at the edge of the city was destined to shine as Rakesh shone, and who knew that better than the parents themselves?

And that was only the beginning, the first step in a great, sweeping ascent to the radiant heights of fame and fortune. The thesis he wrote for his M.D. brought
35 Rakesh still greater glory, if only in select medical circles. He won a scholarship. He went to the U.S.A. (that was what his father learnt to call it and taught the whole family to say - not America, which was what the ignorant neighbours called it, but, with a grand familiarity, 'the U.S.A.') where he pursued his career in the most prestigious of all hospitals and won encomiums² from his American colleagues which
40 were relayed to his admiring and glowing family. What was more, he came *back*, he actually returned to that small yellow house in the once-new but increasingly shabby colony, right at the end of the road where the rubbish vans tipped out their stinking contents for pigs to nose in and rag-pickers to build their shacks on, all steaming and smoking just outside the neat wire fences and well-tended gardens. To this Rakesh
45 returned and the first thing he did on entering the house was to slip out of the embraces of his sisters and brothers and bow down and touch his father's feet.

Games At Twilight, Anita Desai, 1982

¹ Bedlam = scene of noise and confusion

² Encomium = compliment, special praise

COMPRÉHENSION

Vous traiterez les questions dans l'ordre, en indiquant clairement leur numéro sur votre copie. Vous veillerez à :

- faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne,
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il vous est demandé de rédiger la réponse. (Dans ce cas, le nombre de mots à utiliser est indiqué entre parenthèses).

General comprehension

1. Give the two main characters' names.
2. How are they related to each other?
3. What do we learn about the characters' social background? (20 words)

Detailed comprehension

Focus on lines 1 to 16

4. Where are the family and visitors gathering, and what for? (give 2 reasons). (10 to 15 words).
5. Describe the atmosphere in your own words. (5 to 10 words)
6. What had Rakesh's education implied for his parents? (10 words)

Focus on lines 17 to 32

7. Why did Rakesh bow down and touch his father's feet? (10 words)
8. Right or wrong? Justify by quoting from the text.
 - a. The visitors approve of Rakesh's attitude towards his father.
 - b. Rakesh's father is an educated man.
9. l.29-30: "*But there was more envy than rancour in their voices and it was, of course, inevitable*". Explain this phrase in your own words. (40 words).

Focus on lines 33 to the end.

10. Quote the two sentences which show that Rakesh was a brilliant medical student.
11. Quote 4 words which illustrate his "sweeping ascent".
12. l.35 to l.38: "*He went to the U.S.A. (that was what his father learnt to call it and taught the whole family to say – not America, which was what the ignorant neighbours called it, but, with a grand familiarity " the U.S.A").* What does the passage reveal about the father's attitude towards his neighbours? (about 20 words).

13. I.40, "What was more, he came back..." to the end. What does this passage suggest about Rakesh's values? (40 to 50 words)

EXPRESSION ÉCRITE

Choose one of the following subjects:

1. Rakesh sends his father a letter expressing his intentions and reasons for coming back to his native land. (300 words)
2. To what extent can fame and fortune change someone? (300 words)