

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2011

ANGLAIS LV1

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 4 pages numérotées de 1 à 4.

BARÈME

COMPRÉHENSION – EXPRESSION	14 POINTS
TRADUCTION	6 POINTS

He is waiting at the gate when her flight comes in. Two years have passed since he last saw his mother; despite himself, he is shocked at how she has aged. Her hair, which had had streaks of grey in it, is now entirely white; her shoulders stoop; her flesh has grown flabby.

5 They have never been a demonstrative family. A hug, a few murmured words, and the business of greeting is done. In silence they follow the flow of travellers to the baggage hall, pick up her suitcase, and set off on the ninety-minute drive.

'A long flight,' he remarks. 'You must be exhausted.'

10 'Ready to sleep,' she says; and indeed, en route, she falls asleep briefly, her head slumped against the window.

At six o'clock, as it is growing dark, they pull up in front of his home in suburban Waltham. His wife Norma and the children appear on the porch. In a show of affection that must cost her a great deal, Norma holds her arms out wide and says, 'Elisabeth!' The two women embrace; then the children, in their well-brought-up though more subdued fashion, follow suit.

15 Elizabeth Costello the novelist will be staying with them for the three days of her visit to Appleton College. It is not a period he is looking forward to. His wife and his mother do not get on. It would be better were she to stay at a hotel, but he cannot bring himself to suggest that.

20 Hostilities are renewed almost at once. Norma has prepared a light supper. His mother notices that only three places have been set. 'Aren't the children eating with us?' she asks. 'No,' says Norma, 'they are eating in the playroom.' 'Why?'

25 The question is not necessary, since she knows the answer. The children are eating separately because Elizabeth does not like to see meat on the table, while Norma refuses to change the children's diet to suit what she calls 'your mother's delicate sensibilities'.

'Why?' asks Elizabeth Costello a second time.

Norma flashes him an angry glance. He sighs. 'Mother,' he says, 'the children are having chicken for supper, that's the only reason.'

'Oh,' she says. 'I see.'

30 His mother has been invited to Appleton College, where her son John is assistant professor of physics and astronomy, to deliver the annual Gates Lecture and meet with literature students. Because Costello is his mother's maiden name, and because he has never seen any reason to broadcast his connection with her, it was not known at the time of the invitation that Elizabeth Costello, the Australian writer, had a family connection in the Appleton community. He would have preferred that state of affairs to continue.

35 On the basis of her reputation as a novelist, this fleshy, white-haired lady has been invited to Appleton to speak on any subject she elects; and she has responded by electing to speak not about herself and her fiction, as her sponsors would no doubt like, but about a hobbyhorse of hers, animals.

40 John Bernard has not broadcast his connection with Elizabeth Costello because he prefers to make his own way in the world. He is not ashamed of his mother. On the contrary, he is proud of her, despite the fact that he and his sister and his late father are written into her books in ways that he sometimes finds painful. But he is not sure that he wants to hear her once again on the subject of animal rights, particularly when he knows he will afterwards be treated, in bed, to his wife's disparaging commentary.

45 He met and married Norma while they were both graduate students at Johns Hopkins. Norma holds a Ph.D. in philosophy with a specialism in the philosophy of mind. Having moved with him to Appleton, she has been unable to find a teaching position. This is a cause of bitterness to her, and of conflict between the two of them.

J. M. Coetzee, *Elizabeth Costello*, 2003

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) Say who the characters present in the text are. Give their full names and jobs when possible, and say how they are related.
 - b) What other characters are only mentioned?
2. How is John connected to the following places?
 - a) suburban Waltham (lines 11-12)
 - b) Appleton (line 37)
 - c) Johns Hopkins (lines 46-47)
3. In your own words, explain the sentence "They have never been a demonstrative family" (line 5).
4. What is the reason for Elizabeth's visit? Quote the text.
5. Why isn't she staying at a hotel? Answer in your own words (30 words).
6. True or false? Justify by quoting the text.
 - a) John and Elizabeth often see each other.
 - b) Norma is glad to see Elizabeth.
 - c) Elizabeth is a vegetarian.
 - d) Elizabeth is a widow.
 - e) Norma teaches at Appleton College.
7.
 - a) Explain in your own words the incident about the dinner (30 words).
 - b) What does it reveal about the two women's personalities? (30 words)
8. Give two reasons why John "has never seen any reason to broadcast his connection with her" (lines 32-33). Answer in your own words.
9. Focus on lines 40 to 45.
Describe in your own words John's feelings towards his mother (30 words).

10. Give the two sources of tension between John and Norma. How does this affect their relationship? (40 words)
11. Choose one of the following subjects: **subject 1 OR subject 2.**
250 words approximately. Give the number of words.

Subject 1:

A few months after her stay John writes to Elizabeth. For the first time he expresses his real feelings towards her. Write the letter.

Subject 2:

“John Bernard [...] prefers to make his own way in the world.” (lines 40-41)

Is this a principle you would subscribe to? How important is it for you to make one's own way in the world?

TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 16 (“*Elizabeth Costello the novelist...*”) to line 25 (...“*your mother's delicate sensibilities.*”).