

Session 2012

**BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL**

**ANGLAIS**

Langue vivante 2

Séries L et S

**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 numérotées 1/4 à 4/4.  
Dès que le sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.**

After Caroline and Lucy had gone back up to Cumbria, I joined Mumsnet myself. I logged on with the user name 'SouthCoastLizzie' and pretended to be a single mother from Brighton with her own little business making items of jewellery and suchlike. Of course I knew what Caroline's user name was and I made a special point of following the threads where I could see that she was taking part in the discussion. Gradually I made it my business, whenever she made a post, to be the next poster in the thread: I would follow up her point, sometimes adding a little qualification or correction just for form's sake, but usually agreeing with her. Sometimes this was difficult, especially if the thread (as it often was) was about a particular book or a writer, but in these cases I would basically confine myself to generalities, and try to bluff my way through. After I'd been doing this for a few weeks, so that Caroline would definitely be aware of the existence of SouthCoastLizzie, and might even be curious about her, I sent her a PM saying that my real name was Liz Hammond, and I really liked her posts, and felt that we had a lot of interests in common, and how would she feel if we started writing to each other a bit more directly, by email? I wasn't even sure that I would get a reply: but I did. And when it came, it really astonished me.

Caroline and I were together for about fourteen years. In all that time, I can honestly say that she never, ever wrote to me – or even addressed me – with the kind of affection she showed to 'Liz Hammond' in that first email. I won't quote it – even though I can remember most of it by heart – but I can promise you that you would not believe the warmth, the friendliness, the *love* she put into those words, those words addressed to a complete stranger – a complete stranger *who didn't even exist*, for Christ's sake! Why had she never written to me – why had she never *spoken* to me – like that? I was so shocked, and just so (...) *wounded*, that I couldn't even reply to her for a few days. And when, finally, I did manage to write back, I have to admit that I was a little scared. Clearly I was going to see another side of Caroline if I carried on with this correspondence – a side I'd never been allowed access to during our marriage. I would have to get used to that. Anyway, I decided not to rush things. If Caroline and the non-existent Liz Hammond got too close, too quickly, then everything would soon become very complicated. I didn't want to turn into her best friend, or anything like that, I just wanted to be kept up to date with the sort of day-to-day stuff that I was never going to learn in my guise as her ex-husband. And that was more or less what happened. I learned to ignore the jealousy I felt every time that Caroline sent a message – the sense that it was me, the man who'd been married to her for twelve years, who had always been the real stranger as far as she was concerned – and instead just concentrated on the bits of news I learned this way: the fact that Lucy had taken up the clarinet, or was turning out to be good at geography, all that sort of thing (...) We swapped photographs a few times, and in return for the picture of her and Lucy standing in front of their Christmas tree (which I've framed, as it happens, and put on the mantelpiece) I plucked a random photo of somebody's children from the internet and told her that this was my son and daughter. There was no reason why she shouldn't believe me.

All sounds very sad, put like that, doesn't it?

Jonathan Coe, *The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim*, 2010.

**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 lettre repère le cas échéant, ex. 8a) ;
- b) les citations seront limitées aux éléments pertinents et seront précédées ou suivies de la mention de la ligne ;
- c) en l'absence d'indications précises quant au nombre de mots, répondre brièvement à la question posée ;
- d) respecter le nombre de mots demandés.

**A. COMPREHENSION GENERALE**

1. How are Caroline, Lucy and the narrator related? Explain in your own words then find references from the text. (20 words)

2. Are the characters taking part in:

*a- an online forum?*

*b- a computer game?*

*c- an online dating session?*

Choose the correct answer and explain your choice by using 3 examples from the text.

3. Who is Liz Hammond? What does the reader learn about her identity? (30-40 words )

**B. COMPREHENSION DETAILLEE**

4. Describe how Liz and Caroline made friends. (20 – 30 words)

5. Among the following statements, which two are right?

The narrator really joined Mumsnet:

a) to find out information about Caroline's and Lucy's routine

b) to send messages to other Mums

c) to join in forums about famous books and writers

d) to run a business

e) to know how Lucy is doing at school

6. What does the narrator mean when he says, lines 29-31, "I was going to see another side of Caroline [...] - a side I'd never been allowed access to during our marriage"? (20-30 words)

7. What effect are the following words expected to have on the reader : line 20 “ever”, line 23 “love”, line 25 “*didn't even exist*”, line 26 “*spoken*” and line 27 “*wounded*”? (30-40 words)
8. What stylistic devices does the author use to convey the narrator's reaction to Caroline's email? (give at least 3 ideas)

Seuls les candidats de la série L répondront aux questions suivantes:

9. What effect are lines 21-23 (“*I won't quote it - even though I can remember most of it by heart - but I can promise you...*” expected to have on the reader? (30 - 40 words)
10. “It was me [...] who had always been the real stranger as far as she was concerned” (138-39) Explain in your own words. (30 - 40 words)
11. Taking into account what you have learnt about the situation, how do you interpret the final sentence?

### TRANSLATION

Translate from line 32 “*If Caroline ...*” up to line 36 “*... as her ex-husband.*”

### C. EXPRESSION

Les candidats choisiront de traiter UN des trois sujets au choix.

Série L :	300 mots
Série S :	250 mots

- Sujet 1: Line 28 “when, finally, I did manage to write back...” Imagine the email he wrote.
- Sujet 2: Line 11 “I would [...] try to bluff my way through.” Have you ever pretended to have read a book? What happened?
- Sujet 3: Is there a limit to how much of your private life you expose on social networks? Can you believe everything you read on the net?