

# BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2008

ANGLAIS LV 1

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 1/4 à 4/4.*

## BARÈME

COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION	14 pts
TRADUCTION	6 pts

He staggered past the post office, his feet like lead, past the storefronts, the bright windows, the cars lined up like ciphers of the wealth that bloomed all around him, unattainable as the moon. And what was it all about? Work, that was all. The right to work, to have a job, earn your daily bread and a roof over your head. He was a criminal for daring to want it, daring to risk everything for the basic human necessities, and now even those were to be denied him. It stank. It did. These people, these *norteamericanos*: what gave them the right to all the riches of the world? He looked round him at the bustle in the lot of the Italian market, white faces, high heels, business suits, the greedy eyes and ravenous mouths. They lived in their glass palaces, with their gates and fences and security systems, they left half-eaten lobsters and beefsteaks on their plates when the rest of the world was starving, spent enough to feed and clothe a whole country on their exercise equipment, their swimming pools and tennis courts and jogging shoes, and all of them, even the poorest, had two cars. Where was the justice in that?

Angry, frustrated, his face twisted into an expression that would have terrified him if he'd caught sight of himself in one of the windows he passed, Cándido shambled aimlessly through the lot. What should he do? Buy a sack of food and hole up in the canyon for a week until the Immigration lost interest and moved on? Risk hitchhiking the ten miles up into the Valley and stand on a streetcorner in the faint hope of work? Or should he just die on the spot and save the *gringos* the embarrassment of having to look at him? He was on his second circuit of the lot, drifting past the ranks of cars without purpose or direction, muttering to himself and refusing to look away from the startled eyes that swooped at him in alarm, when he came upon the blue-black Lexus sitting at the curb with the windows rolled down.

He was moving still, moving past it, but he couldn't help noticing the lady's purse on the passenger seat and the black leather briefcase wedged in beside it. What was in that purse—checks, cash, house keys, a little wallet with pictures and more cash? Hundreds of dollars maybe. Hundreds. Enough to take him and América<sup>1</sup> right out of the woods and into an apartment in Canoga Park, enough to solve all his problems in a single stroke. And the briefcase? He imagined it crammed full of bills like in the movies, neat stacks of them bound with little strips of bank paper. To the owner of a car like that a few hundred dollars was nothing, like pennies to an ordinary person. They could just go to the bank and get more, call their insurance company, flash a credit card. But to Cándido it was the world, and in that moment he figured the world owed him something.

No one was watching him. He glanced right, left, swung round on his heels and strolled past the car again. The blood was like fire in his veins. He thought his head would explode with the pressure in his temples. *There it is, you idiot*, he told himself, *take it. Take it now. Quick!*

And he might have, suspended in the moment between conception and action, all his glands discharging their complicated loads, but for the woman with the pale blond hair and see-through eyes making straight for him with a styrofoam cup clutched in her white, white hand. He froze. Stood there paralysed in front of her car while she hid her eyes behind a pair of sunglasses, her heels clicking on the pavement, her skirt as tight as any whore's. She came right for him, and before he could move aside, before he could protest his innocence or fade back into invisibility, he felt the touch of her hand and his fingers closing involuntarily on the coins.

50 Her touch annihilated him. He'd never been more ashamed in his life, not when he was a drunk in the streets, not when Teófilo Aguadulce took his wife from him and threw him down in the square with the whole village looking on. He hung his head. Let his arms drop to his sides. He stood rooted to the spot for what seemed like hours after she'd ducked into the car, backed out of the lot and vanished, and only then did he open his hand on the two quarters and the dime that clung there as if they'd been seared into the flesh.

<sup>1</sup> América (line 27) is the main character's wife

T. Coraghessan Boyle, *The Tortilla Curtain*, 1995

### NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

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

- respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant, ex. 14 c) ;
- faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne ;
- composer des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

## COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION

### A. Global comprehension

1. Name the country where the story takes place.
2. What do we learn about the main character?
  - a) Give his name.
  - b) Is he American?
  - c) Why is his nationality a problem for him? (20-30 words)
3. Where is the main character at the beginning of the passage? Justify with one element taken from the text.
4. Another character is present in the passage. Say who this character is and why he or she is important. (20 words)

### B. Focus on lines 1-16 and answer the questions.

1. What does the expression "the basic human necessities" (*line 5*) mean for the main character? Answer in your own words.
2. "These people..." (*line 6*), "they..." (*line 9*). Who do these words refer to? Answer in one short sentence.

3. How did he feel about “these people”? What did he find especially unbearable? Answer in your own words, using some elements from the text. (40-50 words)

**C. Focus on lines 14-25 ...“beside it”.**

1. How did the main character look and behave? Answer in your own words (20-30 words) and quote three elements.
2. What suddenly caught the main character’s attention? Answer in your own words listing all the elements mentioned in the text.
3. What idea crossed his mind then?

**D. Focus on lines 25-33 “What was ...”.**

1. According to the main character, what would be different in his life if he carried out his plan? Use elements from the text. (20-30 words)
2. “... he figured the world owed him something” (*line 33*). Does this mean that:
  - a) he thought the best solution would be to leave the country?
  - b) he thought he would soon own a car?
  - c) he thought his life had been so miserable that the world must help him?

**E. Focus on lines 34-51.**

1. Describe the main character’s dilemma in your own words. (20-30 words)
2. What did the woman do that he did not expect?
3. How did the main character feel at the end of the passage? Why? Answer in your own words. (30-40 words)

**F. Choose one of the following essays (250 words).**

1. “Some people would be ready to do anything to get rich.” Discuss this statement and illustrate it with a few examples.
2. Is it sometimes acceptable to break the law? Give a few examples to illustrate your point.

## TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 24 “He was moving still...” to line 31 “... ordinary person.”