

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2010

ANGLAIS

Séries L et S

LANGUE VIVANTE 2

Série L

Durée 3 heures – Coefficient 4

Série S

Durée 2 heures – Coefficient 2

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	10 points
Expression	10 points

But the best of all the stories were, naturally, the ones told by my mother's father, since after all he was the only one of my relatives who'd made the remarkable trip to America and has been old enough at the time to have anything to remember about it. *How was the trip to America, you want to know?* my grandfather would repeat, chuckling softly, when I interviewed him about his life. *I couldn't tell you, because I was in the toilet throwing up the whole time!* But of course this self-deprecating joke, meant to suggest that there was no story to tell, was part of the story of his coming to America, a story, as I knew, that had many chapters. In no particular order, I remember, now, these stories: the one about he and his sister, my glum Aunt Sylvia, whom he always called *Susha*, and whose name appears on the passenger manifest, now available online through the Ellis Island database, as *Sosi Jäger*, had traveled "for weeks" to get from Lwow to Rotterdam "where the boat was waiting," he would say, and being a child with little knowledge of the world, I would be impressed, back then, to think that such a big boat would wait for these two young people from Bolechow, a false impression that my grandfather did little to correct; and then how, after the long trip on the train, from Lwow to Warsaw, then Warsaw through Germany to the Netherlands, they almost missed the boat, because the girls had such long hair.

Because the girls had such long hair?! I would exclaim. The first time I heard this story, which was so long ago that I can't remember when it might have been, I asked the question because I was genuinely perplexed; only now do I understand how sophisticated a storyteller my grandfather was, what a brilliant tease *because the girls had long hair* was, how it was intended to make me ask just that question, so that he could launch into his story. Later on, I asked it simply because I knew he wanted me to.

Yes, because the girls had such long hair! he would go on, sitting there in the webbed garden chair on the broad stoop outside the front door to my parents' house, surveying the neighborhood, as he liked to do when he visited, with an expression of lordly satisfaction, as if he were somehow responsible for the split-level houses in their many odd colors, the neat lawns, the spiral topiaries pointing to the clear summer sky, the silence of this weekday noon. And then he would tell me how, before boarding the big boat that took him and my perennially disappointed aunt to America, all the steerage¹ passengers had to be inspected for lice, and because the girls, including my twenty-two-year-old great-aunt Sylvia, had such long hair in those days, these preboarding examinations took a very long time, and at a certain point my grandfather (who today, I suspect, we would describe as suffering from severe anxiety, although in those days people just said he was "meticulous") panicked.

So what did you do? I would ask, on cue².*

And he would say, so I yelled *Fire! Fire!* and in all the confusion, I took your aunt Susha's hand and we ran up the gangplank and got on the boat! And that's how we came to America.

He would tell this story with an expression that hovered between self-congratulation and self-deprecation, as if simultaneously pleased and (now) slightly embarrassed by the youthful audacity that, if this story is not a lie, had won him his trip to America.

Daniel Mendelsohn, *The Lost*, 2006 (Harper Perennial Edition)

¹ steerage: *third-class*

² on cue: *at exactly the moment you expect or that is appropriate*

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. : 6b) ;
- faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne ;
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger la réponse ;
- respecter le nombre de mots indiqué qui constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée.

I. COMPRÉHENSION

THE 'REMARKABLE TRIP' (l. 2)

1. Say what itinerary was followed.
 - a. Where from?
 - b. Where to?
 - c. What for?
 - d. What means of transport?
2.
 - a. How many characters made that '*remarkable trip*'?
 - b. How were they related to each other?
3.
 - a. Why was the girls' '*long hair*' (l. 15) a problem? (40 words)
 - b. How was it solved? (20 words)

THE NARRATOR'S COMMENTS ON THE STORY OF THIS 'REMARKABLE TRIP'

4. How is the narrator related to the main characters?
5. When did the narrator hear the story for the first time? Include a quote in your answer.
6. Why is the phrase (ll.16, 17, 22) '*Because the girls had such long hair*' repeated several times? (30-40 words)
7.
 - a. Explain in your own words how the narrator responded to the story the first time it was told? (20 words)
 - b. How did the narrator respond later and why? Include a quote in your answer.

8. **Seuls les candidats de la série L réaliseront cet exercice :**

Traduire en français le passage de '*But the best of all the stories...*' (l. 1) à '*...about his life.*' (ll. 4-5)

II. 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:

The narrator wonders '*if this story is not a lie*' (l. 38) and asks Sylvia about her version. It turns out to be completely different. Imagine their conversation.

Sujet 2:

What kind of stories appeal to your imagination? Say why.