

Session 2008

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 1

Séries ES - S

Durée : 3 heures – Coefficient 3

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.

KIT OXFORD woke early, feeling eager and anxious at the same time. It was a strange sensation.

Today he was going to rob Oxenford Medical.

The idea filled him with excitement. It would be the greatest prank⁽¹⁾ ever. It would be written up in books with titles like *The Perfect Crime*. Even better, it would be revenge on his father. The company would be destroyed, and Stanley Oxenford would be ruined financially. The fact that the old man would never know who had done this to him somehow made it better. It would be a secret gratification that Kit could hug to himself for the rest of his life.

But he was anxious, too. This was unusual. By nature, he was not a worrier. Whatever trouble he was in, he could generally talk his way out. He rarely planned anything.

He had planned today. Perhaps that was his problem.

He lay in bed with his eyes closed, thinking of the obstacles he had to overcome.

First, there was the physical security around the Kremlin: the double row of fencing, the razor wire, the lights, the intruder alarms. Those alarms were protected by tamper switches, shock sensors, and end of line circuitry that would detect a short circuit. The alarms were directly connected to regional police headquarters at Inverburn via a phone line that was continuously checked by the system to verify that it was operational.

None of that would protect the place against Kit and his collaborators.

Then there were the guards, watching important areas on closed-circuit television cameras, patrolling the premises hourly. Their TV monitors were fitted with high-security biased switches that would detect equipment substitution, for example if the feed from a camera were replaced by a signal from a videotape player.

Kit had thought of a way around that.

Finally there was the elaborate scheme of access control: the plastic credit-card passes, each bearing a photo of the authorized user plus details of the user's fingerprint embedded in a chip.

Defeating this system would be complicated, but Kit knew how to do it.

His degree was in computer science, and he had been top of his class, but he had an even more important advantage. He had designed the software that controlled the entire security setup at the Kremlin. It was his baby. He had done a terrific job for his ungrateful father, and the system was virtually impenetrable to an outsider, but Kit knew its secrets.

At around midnight tonight, he would walk into the holy of holies, the BSL4 laboratory, the most secure location in Scotland. With him would be his client, a quietly menacing Londoner called Nigel Buchanan, and two collaborators. Once there, Kit would open the refrigerated vault with a simple four-digit code. Then Nigel would steal samples⁽²⁾ of Stanley Oxenford's precious new antiviral drug.

They would not keep the samples long. Nigel had a strict deadline. He had to hand over the samples by ten o'clock tomorrow morning, Christmas Day. Kit did not know the reason for the deadline. He did not know who the customer was, either, but he could guess. It had to be one of the pharmaceutical multinationals. Having a sample to analyze would save years of research. The company would be able to make its own version of the drug, instead of paying Oxenford millions in licensing fees.

It was dishonest, of course, but men found excuses for dishonesty when the stakes⁽³⁾ were high. Kit could picture the company's distinguished chairman, with his silver hair and pin-striped suit, saying hypocritically, "Can you assure me categorically that no employee of our organization broke any laws in obtaining this sample?"

The best part of Kit's plan, he felt, was that the intrusion would go unnoticed until long after he and Nigel had left the Kremlin. Today, Tuesday, was Christmas Eve. Tomorrow and the next day were holidays. At the earliest, the alarm might be sounded on Friday, when one or two eager-beaver scientists would show up for work; but there was a good

chance the theft would not be spotted then or over the weekend, giving Kit and the gang until Monday of next week to cover their tracks. It was more time than they needed.

So why was he frightened? The face of Toni Gallo, his father's security chief, came into his mind.

Ken Follett, *Whiteout*, 1991 (abridged and adapted)

(1) a prank: *une farce*.

(2) a sample : *un échantillon*.

(3) a stake : *un enjeu*.

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 : 14 c) ;
- b) faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne ;
- c) composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

COMPRÉHENSION

1. The characters are Kit Oxenford, Stanley Oxenford, Nigel Buchanan, Toni Gallo.

- a) Say if they are present or mentioned.
- b) What is the connection between them?

2. Who is the main character?

3. Whose company is Kit planning to rob? What does he want to take?

4. Where is Oxenford Medical actually situated? How is this place also referred to in the text? Explain this metaphor. (30 words)

Read from I.1 to I.12

5. What sort of relationship does Kit have with his father and how does it motivate Kit's robbery? (40 words)

6. In what way is Kit different from his usual self today? Say why. (30 words)

Read from l.13 to l.27

7. Are the following statements right or wrong? Justify with a quotation from the text.
- The police will know if an intruder enters Oxenford Medical.
 - Kit does not expect anyone to be present.
 - Unknown visitors cannot enter the building.

Read from l.28 to l.32

8. What two advantages will enable Kit to overcome the difficulties he faces?
Explain in your own words. (20 to 30 words)

Read from l.33 to the end

9. How much does Kit know or guess about the people he is working for and their motivations? (50 words)
10. Why is the choice of date particularly important?
Explain in your own words. (40 words)
11. Translate from "His degree was in computer science..." l.29 to "... Kit knew its secrets." l.32.

EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez l'un des deux sujets au choix.

Sujet 1 : Do you think it is important to overcome obstacles in life? (300 words)

Sujet 2 : You are Kit. After the robbery, you write an e-mail to your father explaining what you have done and why. (300 words)