

**Session 2006**

**BACCALAUREAT GENERAL**

**ANGLAIS**

**Langue vivante 1**

**Série L**

**Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 4**

**L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.**

<b>Compréhension</b>	<b>14 points</b>
<b>Expression</b>	
<b>Traduction</b>	<b>6 points</b>

**Le sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/4 à 4/4.**

Chuckie had been ashamed of his mother ever since he could remember. Shame was, perhaps, the wrong word. His mother provoked a constant low-level anxiety in him. Sometimes, he would comfort himself with thoughts of her incontrovertible mediocrity. She was just an archetypal working-class Protestant Belfast mother.

5 After his father had left home and Chuckie was faced with the prospect of living with his mother, he decided simply to avoid her as best he could. And he did. There had been a decade's worth of agile avoidance. He couldn't remember when they had last had a conversation of more than a minute's duration. It was a miracle in a house as tiny as the one they shared. The sitting room, kitchen and bathroom were the flashpoints in this long campaign. She was always leaving little notes around the house. He would read these missives. *Slat called at six. He'll meet you in the Crown. Your cousin's coming home at the weekend.* He told her almost all the things he needed to tell her by telephone. Sometimes he would leave the house just so that he could find a phone box and call from there. Sometimes it felt like Rommel and Montgomery<sup>1</sup> in the desert. Sometimes it felt much worse than that.

15 Caroline Causton looked up and saw him at his bedroom window. He did not flinch.

'What are you up to, Chuckie?' quizzed Caroline.

20 'Nice evening'. Chuckie smiled. His mother, too, was looking at him now. She couldn't remember when she had last seen her son's face split with a smile of such warmth.

'Are you all right, son?'

'I was just listening to you talk', explained Chuckie gently. The two women exchanged looks.

25 'It reminded me of when I was a kid,' he went on. His voice was quiet. But it was an easy matter to talk thus on that dwarf street with their faces only a few feet from his own.

'When I was a kid and you sent me to bed I would sit under the window and listen to you two talk just as you're talking now. When the Troubles started you did it every night. You'd stand and whisper about bombs and soldiers and what the Catholics would do. I could hear. I haven't been as happy since. I liked the Troubles. They were like television.'

30 As Chuckie's mother listened to those words, her face fell and fell again and, as Chuckie finished, she was speechless. She clutched her hand to her heart and staggered.

'Shall I call him an ambulance?' asked Caroline.

Chuckie laughed a healthy laugh and disappeared from the window.

Caroline faced his mother. 'Peggy, what's got into your boy?'

35 But Peggy was thinking about what her son had said. She remembered that frightened time well but his memory seemed more vivid, more powerful than her own. She remembered soldiers on the television and on the streets. She remembered parts of her city she'd never seen being made suddenly famous. She remembered the men's big talk of resistance and of civil war, of finally wiping the Catholics off the cloth of the country. Chuckie remembered pressing his head against the wall underneath his bedroom window and the whispers of his mother and her friend. For the first time, she glimpsed how beautiful it might have been to him.

40 Caroline was unmoved. 'Is he on drugs?'

*Adapted from Robert Mc Liam Wilson, Eureka Street, 1996*

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<sup>1</sup> (l.14) Rommel and Montgomery were generals on opposing sides during the Desert Campaign in World War II

## COMPRÉHENSION - EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez les questions **dans l'ordre**, en indiquant clairement leur **numéro** sur votre copie.

Lorsque la réponse doit être développée, le nombre de mots ou d'éléments de réponse sera indiqué dans la question.

En l'absence d'indications, vous répondrez **brièvement** à la question posée.

1. In what country does the story take place?
2. Give precise information about Chuckie's parents, background (social and religious), and living conditions. (20-30 words)
3.
  - a) What does '*And he did.*' (line 6) really mean?
  - b) How long has this situation been going on and what does it reveal about the characters? (20-30 words)
  - c) **In your own words**, say what Chuckie's everyday life with his mother had become. (30- 40 words)
4.
  - a) Whose point of view is adopted from line 7 to line 15?
  - b) Line 10: '*She was always leaving little notes around the house.*' Comment on the use of the underlined elements.

**Read from line 16 to the end.**

5. Say how the two women present in the passage are connected.
6.
  - a) Where exactly are all the characters?
  - b) What mood is Chuckie in now and what causes that mood? (20-30 words)
  - c) **In your own words**, explain why '*The two women exchanged looks.*' (lines 22-23) (20-30 words)
7.
  - a) **In your own words**, say what effect Chuckie's words have on his mother and say how it shows. (20 words)
  - b) How does the other woman react? Why? (30 words)
8.
  - a) **Drawing information from the text**, explain what '*the Troubles*' were. (40 words)
  - b) Contrast the mother's and Chuckie's perceptions of the Troubles. (50 words)

9. Choose one of these subjects (250 words approximately. Give the number of words)

**Subject 1 :** To what extent can TV affect the distinction between fiction and reality in people's minds? Illustrate your answer with examples.

**Subject 2 :** Writing letters, sending short text messages, talking over the phone, chatting on the internet : what is the influence of these means of communication on your everyday life?

### TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 17 ('*What are you up to?...*') to line 29 ('*...They were like television.*')