

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

SESSION 2006

ANGLAIS LV1

Durée : 3 heures

Série ES / S	
Coefficient : 3	
COMPREHENSION	10
EXPRESSION	10

L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.

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

Once, Mr Meadows had himself been a teacher. Thirty years in the classroom, in the smell of chalk and cabbage and mown grass and socks and wood-polish and life. Of course, in this year of 2023 there were no more teachers – after all, computers were far safer and more efficient – but the school still looked so familiar, so real in the sweet October light that he could almost ignore the chain-link fence that reared mightily above the little wall and ran all the way around the playing field, the lightning-bolt electrification symbol and the lettered warning – SCHOOL – NO UNACCOMPANIED ADULTS – bolted to the post.

But Mr Meadows was remembering his own classrooms; the scarred wooden floors stained purple with ink and polished to a lethal gloss by generations of young feet; the passageways soft with blackboard dust; the flying staircases of books; the graffitied desks with their furtive slogans; the crumpled worksheets, confiscated cigarettes, copied homework, arcane messages, and other forgotten artefacts of that lost and long-ago state of grace.

Of course, it wasn't really like that: nowadays each pupil had a workstation with a plastic desktop, a voice-activated monitor, an electronic pen and a computer-generated tutor with an ageless and intelligent face (a prototype selected from thousands of designs by the Centre for Generational Awareness to inspire confidence and respect). All lessons were taken from the workstation – even practicals were performed under virtual conditions. In the barbaric old days children had been acid-burned in chemistry, had their bones broken in various sports, skinned their knees in asphalt playgrounds and were bullied and victimized in countless ways by their human teachers. Nowadays, all children were safe. And yet they still *looked* much the same as he remembered, thought Mr Meadows. They sounded the same. What, then, had changed?

Mr Meadows was so deep in his thoughts that he did not notice the sound of a security van approaching along the lane, or hear the recorded alarm-signal – *Children! Danger! Children!* – as it clattered towards him. It was only when the vehicle stopped right in front of him, its turret light strobing, that he saw it and was startled from his thoughts.

'Don't move! Stop right there!' said a metallic voice from inside the van.

Mr Meadows took his hands out of his pockets so fast that his bag of sweets spilled out, scattering across the lane like coloured marbles. Beyond the chain-link fence, the children were coming quietly out of the school buildings in twos and threes, some huddled over electronic gamesets, some glancing curiously at the security vehicle with its illuminated turret and the old, old man in the battered trilby' with his hands raised and his palms outstretched like an actor in one of those old films, where everyone was in black and white, and men on horseback held up stagecoaches and Martians stalked the barren lands with Death Rays at the ready.

'Your name?' demanded the vehicle stridently.

Mr Meadows told it, keeping his hands clearly visible at all times.

'Business or profession?'

'I'm – a teacher,' admitted Mr Meadows.

There was a whirring sound from inside the vehicle. 'No business or profession,' said the metallic voice. 'Marital status?'

'Er – I'm not married,' said Mr Meadows. 'I did have a dog, but –'

50 'Unmarried,' intoned the vehicle. Though the robot voice was completely uninflected, Mr Meadows seemed to hear a kind of disapproval in the word. 'Can you explain to me, Mr Meadows, your purpose in loitering² outside a clearly marked restricted area?'

'I was just walking,' he said.

'Walking.'

55 'I like to walk,' explained Mr Meadows. 'I like to watch the children playing.'

'And have you ever done this before?' said the machine. 'This walking and watching?'

'Every day,' he replied, 'for fifteen years.'

60 There was a long, hissing silence. 'And are you aware, Mr Meadows, that personal contact (including physical, audiovisual, virtual or electronic) between an unsupervised adult and a child or young person (that being defined as any person under the age of sixteen) is strictly prohibited under the terms of Clause 9 of the Generations Act of 2008?'

'I like to hear their voices,' said Mr Meadows. 'It makes me feel young.'

Joanne HARRIS, *The Spectator* [Jigs & Reels – 2004]

¹ a kind of soft hat

² hanging out, often in a suspicious way

RECOMMANDATIONS IMPORTANTES

*Les candidats traiteront le sujet **exclusivement** 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 : 8b)
- 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.

I - COMPREHENSION

1°)- Copy out the summary of the text, choosing the correct words or phrases.

The story takes place (in the past/in the future). Mr Meadows, a teacher who is (retired/still active), is walking (outside/inside) a school. He is considering (how much/how little) school has changed since his teaching days when he is stopped by a security (vehicle/guard).

Focus between lines 1 and 25.

2°)- In 2023, two main changes have taken place in the school. Say in your own words which ones. (20 words)

3°)- Mr Meadows tries to convince himself that things have not changed so much. Find three examples in the text.

4)- Choose the correct adjective and write down the complete sentence.

When he looks upon the past, Mr Meadows is (a) indifferent.
(b) critical.
(c) nostalgic.

5)- Pick out a phrase which sums up this feeling.

6)- "all children were safe". (l. 23). Explain why in your own words. (30 words)

7)- L. 9 -23 : Does the writer present the 2023 school in a positive or a negative way? Justify your answer.

Focus on the end of the text.

8)- Say, in your own words, why Mr Meadows is stopped by the security van. (20 words)

9)- Quote three elements showing that there is some suspicion in the robot's voice.

10)- Judging by his answers say what kind of life Mr Meadows is leading. (20 words)

11)- Translate from line 20 (In the barbaric old days) to line 23 (human teachers).

II - EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez l'un des deux sujets au choix. (300 mots)

a) Would you approve of a totally computerized school system?

b) Do you think that young people can benefit from the experience of older generations?