

**BACCALAUREAT GENERAL**  
**SESSION 2006**

**ANGLAIS LV1**

**Durée : 3 heures**

<b>Série L</b>	
<b>Coefficient : 4</b>	
COMPREHENSION EXPRESSION	- 14
TRADUCTION	6

**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.**

After school, Hassan and I met up, grabbed a book, and trotted up a bowl-shaped hill just north of my father's property in Wazir Akbar Khan. There was an old abandoned cemetery atop the hill with rows of unmarked headstones and tangles of brushwood clogging the aisles. Seasons of rain and snow had turned the iron gate rusty and left the cemetery's low white stone walls in decay. There was a pomegranate tree near the entrance to the cemetery. One summer day, I used one of Ali's kitchen knives to carve our names on it: "Amir and Hassan, the sultans of Kabul." Those words made it formal: the tree was ours. After school, Hassan and I climbed its branches and snatched its bloodred pomegranates. After we'd eaten the fruit and wiped our hands on the grass, I would read to Hassan.

Sitting cross-legged, sunlight and shadows of pomegranate leaves dancing on his face, Hassan absently plucked blades of grass from the ground as I read him stories he couldn't read for himself. That Hassan would grow up illiterate like Ali and most Hazaras had been decided the minute he had been born, perhaps even the moment he had been conceived in Sanaubar's unwelcoming womb—after all, what use did a servant have for the written word? But despite his illiteracy, or maybe because of it, Hassan was drawn to the mystery of words, seduced by a secret world forbidden to him. I read him poems and stories, sometimes riddles—though I stopped reading those when I saw he was far better at solving them than I was. So I read him unchallenging things like the misadventures of the bumbling Mullah Nasruddin and his donkey. We sat for hours under that tree, sat there until the sun faded in the west, and still Hassan insisted we had enough daylight for one more story, one more chapter.

My favorite part of reading to Hassan was when we came across a big word that he didn't know. I'd tease him, expose his ignorance. One time, I was reading him a Mullah Nasruddin story and he stopped me. "What does that word mean?"

"Which one?"

"Imbecile."

"You don't know what it means?" I said, grinning.

"Nay, Amir agha<sup>1</sup>."

"But it's such a common word!"

"Still, I don't know it." If he felt the sting of my tease, his smiling face didn't show it.

"Well, everyone in my school knows what it means," I said. "Let's see. 'Imbecile.' It means smart, intelligent. I'll use it in a sentence for you. 'When it comes to words, Hassan is an imbecile.'"

"Aaah," he said, nodding.

I would always feel guilty about it later. So I'd try to make up for it by giving him one of my old shirts or a broken toy. I would tell myself that was amends enough for a harmless prank<sup>2</sup>.

One day, in July 1973, I played another little trick on Hassan. I was reading to him, and suddenly I strayed from the written story. I pretended I was reading from the book, flipping pages regularly, but I had abandoned the text altogether, taken over the story, and made up my own. Hassan, of course, was oblivious to this. To him, the words on the page were a scramble of codes, indecipherable, mysterious. Words were secret doorways and I held all the keys. After, I started

<sup>1</sup> agha : a term of respect

<sup>2</sup> prank : a trick played on someone to make them look silly

to ask him if he'd liked the story, a giggle rising in my throat, when Hassan began to clap.

50 "What are you doing?" I said.  
 "That was the best story you've read me in a long time," he said, still clapping.  
 I laughed. "Really?"  
 "Really."

55 "That's fascinating," I muttered. I meant it too. This was ... wholly unexpected. "Are you sure, Hassan?"  
 He was still clapping. "It was great, Amir agha. Will you read more of it tomorrow?"  
 "Fascinating," I repeated, a little breathless, feeling like a man who  
 60 discovers a buried treasure in his own backyard. Walking down the hill, thoughts were exploding in my head like the fireworks at *Chaman*. *Best story you've read me in a long time*, he'd said. I had read him a lot of stories. Hassan was asking me something.  
 "What?" I said.

65 "What does that mean, 'fascinating'?"  
 I laughed. Clutched him in a hug and planted a kiss on his cheek.  
 "What was that for?" he said, startled, blushing.  
 I gave him a friendly shove. Smiled. "You're a prince, Hassan. You're a prince and I love you."

70 That same night, I wrote my first short story.

Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*, 2003.

### 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.

### LES CANDIDATS SONT PRIÉS DE TRAITER LES QUESTIONS DANS L'ORDRE

#### I – COMPREHENSION - EXPRESSION

- 1°) Sum up the story in your own words mentioning the place, the main characters, what they enjoy doing together and why, and finally what happened one day in July 1973. (60 words)
- 2°) What does the sentence "the tree was ours" (l. 8) reveal about the main characters' relationship? (You may use the text to justify your answer.) (20/30 words)

3°) What do we learn about their social status and the consequences on their own lives? What influence did this have on their behaviours when they were together? Justify by quoting from the text. (60 words)

4°) Read the second paragraph from "Sitting" (l. 12) down to "chapter": (l. 24)

What caused Amir to change his selections of readings?

Choose an answer and justify your choice by quoting from the text.

- a) Hassan was no longer interested by Amir's stories.
- b) Amir made great efforts to expose Hassan to a wide variety of books.
- c) Amir suspected Hassan might be very clever and he started feeling jealous.

5°) Read the following part of the text from "My favourite part" (l. 25) down to "prank" (l. 41).

- a) What definition of the word "imbecile" does Amir give Hassan?(30/40 words)
- b) Choose the words that best describe Amir's attitude to Hassan? Justify your choice (50 words).  
- respect – friendship – contempt – understanding – a feeling of superiority – admiration – wickedness -

6°) What were the consequences of what happened one day in July 1973

- a) on Amir?
- b) on his relationship with Hassan?

7°) Consider the overall message of this text. Choose the most appropriate title  
Justify your choice:

- a) A Writer is Born.
- b) A Friendship is Born.
- c) A Prince is Born

8 ) Write on **one** of the following subjects (250 words).

- 1) "Words are secret doorways": What have books helped you discover?
- 2) Do you believe you can keep a friend forever?

## II - TRADUCTION

Translate the text from: "One day, in July 1973" (l. 42) down to "Are you sure, Hassan"? (l. 56)