

Terminale Générale L
Anglais LV1
2007

COMPREHENSION

1.

a) Name the country and city where the story is set.

The story is set in New York, U.S.A.

b) What time of the year is it?

It is winter.

c) What time of the day is it? Justify your answer with two quotations.

It is nighttime.

l 1 "as dark fell" ; l 3 "and seek lodging for the night".

2. Geiermeier is waiting in a sort of job centre. How long has he been there?

Geiermeier has been waiting there for two days.

3.

a) "Soon there would be nothing left to do but knock on church doors and seek lodging for the night." (Lines 2 and 3)

In your own words say what his problem is and how he must be feeling.

He is homeless and he must feel desperate and resigned because he's got no place to sleep in.

b) In what particular way does this problem get solved?

He gets a job for the night. Indeed, he fell asleep in the job centre and was the only one left to be called.

c) Say what he is asked to do? (20 / 30 words)

He is supposed to work as a foreman and set up a 20-man crew to shovel the snow blocking city streets overnight.

4. "Turns out you're lucky." (Line 14)

In your own words, say what chain of events makes Geiermeier lucky. (40 / 50 words)

Because of the cold weather, Geiermeier preferred staying by the stove at the job centre and fell asleep. In a moment of compassion, the clerk let him sleep inside past the closing time. In the meantime, it started snowing heavily in New York, which blocked the streets.

5. Read from line 14 to line 19.

Describe and explain Geiermeier's reaction to the clerk's words.

First, Geiermeier doesn't understand the clerk's words, thinking that he should leave. It takes him a while to understand the job offer. Finally, he feels grateful for it.

6. Focus on what the clerk says from line 20 to 30.

What does it reveal about his attitude towards Geiermeier? (2 elements)

The clerk seems to be xenophobic and exasperated by Geiermeier's astonished look and slow reaction.

l 20 "Is that a yes? You better stop speaking Dutch and learn some English."

In addition, he is condescending and cynical.

l 29 "You think you're man enough to shovel the city alone."

7. Focus on the passage from line 39 to the end.

Why didn't Geiermeier get a job sooner? (40 words)

Even if he had been called several times, he didn't recognize his name because the clerk was unable to read his handwriting and thus pronounce his name properly. Moreover, he fell asleep in the job centre as he had no place to go to.

8.

a) Read from line 55 to 57. Say what the clerk implicitly tells Geiermeier to do and explain why.

The clerk suggests that Geiermeier alter his name, adopt a clearer handwriting and learn English so as to fit in the American society.

b) Imagine Geiermeier's thoughts and reactions following the clerk's remark. (40 / 50 words)
Geiermeier's feelings must have been hurt because he is really proud of his handwriting. He must have felt surprised and disappointed at the notion of having to alter his name and by so doing, betraying his genuine cultural identity, especially in a country known for its cultural diversity and open-mindedness.

EXPRESSION

Choose one of the following subjects.
(250 words approximately. Write down the number of words.)

Subject 1

Trying to make oneself understood in a foreign country is not always easy. What sort of situations can it lead to? Give examples.

Ce sujet est un sujet d'argumentation sur la difficulté des étrangers à se faire comprendre. C'est un sujet classique. Il est à la fois descriptif et argumentatif. N'oubliez pas illustrer vos propos par des exemples, si possible originaux.

Vous pouvez introduire le sujet de manière générale ou directement raconter une histoire et en vous mettant en scène. On vous demande de relater des événements.

Faites attention aux temps et à la concordance des temps.

Vous pouvez conclure sur la nécessité et l'intérêt d'apprendre une ou plusieurs langues étrangères aujourd'hui.

Subject 2

You tell your friends that you have decided to apply for a summer job in an English-speaking country. They react to your decision. Write the scene.

Ce sujet impose des exigences de forme et de fond. Il faut rédiger un dialogue entre vous et vos amis. Le style doit donc être informel, voire familier, mais attention : pas d'excès.

Il faut toujours introduire un dialogue : annoncez en une phrase qui parle et dans quel contexte.

Il faut faire attention au **niveau de langue**

Une conversation c'est du discours direct et donc des guillemets. Il faut aller à la ligne quand le locuteur change.

Pour valoriser votre copie (et donc gagner des points) il faut utiliser des verbes introducteurs sans oublier de les mettre au prétérit. Les adverbes et adjectifs sont également utiles pour souligner les sentiments et les réactions des personnages.

Verbes: He said, he answered, he replied, he asked, he hesitated, he insisted...

Adjectifs: impatient, excited, understanding, surprised

Adverbes: He said happily, expectantly...

Vous pouviez exprimer

La volonté :

"I intend to" ;

"I'm determined to" ;

"When I come back, I will..." (Futur + when)

Les amis auront des questions, des suggestions

"What if you don't fit in?"

"You might / may / could feel lonely / desperate / home-sick"

"If I were you, I would not leave"

"We will miss you".

Il ne faut pas oublier de conclure votre dialogue.

TRADUCTION

attention au niveau de langue

- "T'étais là toute la journée. Tu t'es pas inscrit ? Tu vois pas qu'on est fermé ?" Il regarda autour de lui et s'aperçut que les autres bancs étaient vides et qu'il n'y avait plus personne dans la salle à part lui et l'employé du centre.

Son optimisme s'évanouit. Cet homme le jetait dehors.

- "Pardon. Pardon. J'm'en vais".

- "Non, attends. En fait, t'as d'la chance. Tu vois, j't'ai seulement laissé ronfler à cause de c'temps pourri mais maintenant on dirait que c'est moi qui ai d'la chance. T'as vu cette neige ? Et bien, un gars de la voirie vient juste de regarder par la fenêtre et ils m'ont envoyé un jeune pour me demander de monter une équipe de déblayage cette nuit—juste au moment de la fermeture. Alors, qu'est-ce que t'en dis ? Déblayer d'la neige ? Le boulot te tente ?".