

NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

Les candidats traiteront le sujet sur la copie qui leur sera fournie et veilleront à :

- respecter l’ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie (numéro de l’exercice et, le cas échéant, lettre repère ; ex : 1a, 1b , etc...)
- faire précéder les citations éventuellement demandées du numéro de ligne dans le texte

Comprehension

1. In which country does the scene take place? Justify with one quote from the text.
2. What sort of cars are sold at Patterson’s? Second-hand cars? Low-cost cars? Luxury cars? Justify with one quote from the text
3. Complete the following sentence “ a showroom is a place where cars are ...” Can you justify?
4. From line 1 down to line 24 :
 - a. Name the main character
 - b. Are his clothes casual? Expensive? Dirty? Justify with one quote from the text
 - c. Is his language ordinary? Vulgar? Refined? Justify with one quote from the text
 - d. Does he look like a potential buyer? Justify with **two** quotes from the text
5. Put the following actions in the order in which they happened :
 - the salesmen offered him some coffee
 - they checked his bank account
 - they frowned at his address
 - their smiles became broader
 - they had openly snorted in disbelief
6. Who or what do the underlined words refer to? – answer with complete sentences!
 - a. “ He stared at her” (line 9)
 - b. “ On his behalf.” (line 15).
 - c. “ One of them” (line 21)
 - d. “ It had given him” (line 45)
 - e. “ She’s ready” (line 48)
7. a. In your own words, account for the initial attitude of the salesmen towards the main character. (30 words)
b. Explain in your own words what their attitude is at the end of the text. (30 words)
8. Explain in your own words how the main character feels about his wealth. (lines 29-39). Show that his attitude is paradoxical. Justify by quoting from the text. (50 words)
9. “One of them told the receptionist to get Chuckie some coffee, that was if Mr Lurgan wouldn’t prefer a glass of wine “ (lines 27-28). Turn this passage into direct speech.
10. Translate the following sentences :
 - a. “Chuckie knew that something bad was going to happen. He would be found out” (lines 43- 44)
 - b. “ A man who could absent-mindedly pay cash for a Mercedes was the kind of man they dreamt of” (lines 57-58)

EXPRESSION

Choose one subject from 1 and one from 2

1. a. Imagine how Chuckie became so rich (150 words)
b. The receptionist tells a friend about Chuckie Lurgan’s visit to the showroom (150 words)
2. a. Have you ever been deceived by appearances? (150 words)
b. Money can’t buy happiness. Discuss. (150 words)

Repère sujet : Bac Blanc – épreuve d’anglais LV1 – séries ES et S
ANG LVI – ES et S

Chuckie Lurgan walked through the glass doors of Patterson’s, the Mercedes People. His dream was coming true. He was about to buy his big, expensive car. He was about to buy a car too big to park.

“Can I help you, sir?”

5 The pristine¹ young woman’s tone was just uncertain enough and the ‘sir’ faltering² enough to be insulting. Chuckie’s suit was good but he knew that his face still did not convince. He looked at her tight skirt and her trim heels. He looked at her pretty, prissy³ face and grinned. “Yeah, I wanna buy a car”. He stared at her. He fingered his cuffs⁴. He smiled in
10 her face. “Fuck it, maybe I’ll buy two.”

Forty minutes later, Chuckie sat thoughtfully in the corner of the glossy showroom. He looked around him vacantly. Even the sunshine in there looked like it earned good money. The leather in his chair squeaked prosperously as he shifted but, under Chuckie’s big ass, it sounded furtive.

15 The salesmen were doing some paperwork on his behalf. As he glanced around the big shiny cars – so strange, so beautiful indoors – he could scarcely remember which one he had selected. The tanned toothy men had taken some time to treat his intentions seriously. Like the girl at reception, they had figured him for a dreamer, a fantasist coming in to
20 look at stuff he couldn’t afford. When he had made his choice and announced his desire to write a cheque on the spot, one of them had openly snorted in disbelief. When he had given them his job⁵ address, they had frowned and bristled⁶, almost ready to eject this overdressed proletarian timewaster.

25 But when he had given them one of his account numbers and they had called his bank, everything had changed. The men’s smiles became extraordinarily elastic. One of them told the receptionist to get Chuckie some coffee, that was, if Mr Lurgan wouldn’t prefer a glass of wine.

[...] He should have been delighted as he waited there while they
30 clucked, their faces filled with his reflected cash-heavy grandeur, but he was merely depressed. Their initial reactions had caused him too much shame. They had dented⁷ him. The subsequent obsequiousness held no charm. Without the actual proof of all those pounds, he didn’t look, feel or smell like a wealthy man. He was all wrong. These people knew
35 money. They knew he was all wrong.

For no easily detectable reason, his life had become spectacular, thrilling. He was rich. He was successful. He was in love with a beautiful girl. He was Chuckie Lurgan.

He panicked.

40 Without doing any work, without producing anything, he had amassed all that money and had the promise of nearly as much again every month for the next five months. It was dreadful. It was frightening.

Chuckie knew that something, bad was going to happen. He would be found out. The world would come to its senses and take back all those
45 pounds it had given him. Justice required it. Likelihood dictated it.

Meanwhile, the besuited salesmen had clustered round him again. They were eager to amuse and please.

“Well, Mr Lurgan. She’s ready for you now.”

“Who?”

50 The men laughed indulgently. At the reception desk, the sharp girl laughed too, although she could have heard nothing of what was said.

“Your X series.”

Chuckie looked vacantly at the man’s broad, straining face.

“Your car. Mr Lurgan, the one you’ve just bought.”

55 “Yeah, right enough.”

The men looked genuinely impressed by Chuckie’s patently unfeigned abstraction. A man who could absent-mindedly pay cash for a Mercedes was the kind of man they dreamt of. The receptionist’s eyes flashed at him.

Robert MC LIAM WILSON, *Eureka Street*, 1996.

1. *pristine*: parfait.

2. *faltering*: hesitating.

3. *prissy*: prude.

4. *cuffs*: manchettes.

5. *job* ≠ chic.

6. *frown and bristle*: become irritated.

7. *dent*: hurt.