

# BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2014

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Série L – Durée de l'épreuve : 3 heures – coefficient : 4

Série L LVA – Durée de l'épreuve : 3 heures – coefficient : 4

Série ES-S – Durée de l'épreuve : 3 heures – coefficient : 3

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

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.

Ce sujet comporte 7 pages numérotées de 1 à 7.

## Répartition des points

Compréhension de l'écrit	10 points
Expression écrite	10 points

## DOCUMENT A

“Mother, I’m not cut out for tramping fields and serving drunks.” He’d meant “drinks” but hadn’t bothered correcting himself. “I have an imagination.” The young, defiant artist was unrepentant.

“Are you saying your poor father had no imagination?”

5 “Strictly speaking, only artists have imagination, and I can’t afford to have mine stifled<sup>1</sup>. This is not *me*.” He’d swept an arm majestically with that last remark, to encompass not only the Crowing Cock pub and their outlying farm but the entire population of Tailorstown and the mountains beyond.

10 “I’m very disappointed in you, Lorcan. Just so long as you remember that your father’s pub and the people of this town put food on our table and clothes on your back and funded your education.”

15 But he’d won the day nonetheless, had rented out the land to local farmers, employed a bartender to assist his mother, and returned to Belfast. After graduation, he’d pursued a career as a painter and printer before finally fetching up in the conservation room of the Ulster Museum.

Now thirty-seven and considerably wiser, he winced at the arrogance of that younger self, turned away from the window, and sat down before the Countess<sup>2</sup> once more. An act of justification, if nothing else.

20 These days, instead of toiling over his own canvases, he bent over the work of others. Not that he was bitter, for he was, quite literally, having a hand in the work of the great innovators. The Turners, the Reynoldses, the Laverys: all were revived under his expert hand. One week in the Barbizon, the next in the Rococo, Lorcan moved between schools and periods and styles with the ease of a quick-change artist. It was fulfilling—and lucrative—work.

25 He considered the image on the canvas once again, flexed the fingers of his right hand several times, and took a deep breath. Sufficiently calmed to continue, he laid a speck of cadmium on a soupçon of white and blended the minute quantities to the required hue before taking the brush to the canvas again.

30 The Countess was a plain woman whom Reynolds had flattered as far as he dared, his brush more forgiving than a camera lens could ever be. There was little the great painter could have done about that nose, though: much too long. Each time Lorcan contemplated it, the perfectionist in him wanted to shorten it, to make her perfect.

35 That was his problem and he knew it: the quest for perfection, that unattainable moving target. But the chase brought excellence, and that realization was *his* prize.

Christina McKenna, *The Disenchanted Widow*, 2013

<sup>1</sup> stifled (l. 6): restricted

<sup>2</sup> the Countess: subject of the painting

## DOCUMENT B

Of all the young misfits from our little gang at college, Walker was the one who had struck me as the most promising, and I figured it was inevitable that sooner or later I would begin reading about the books he had written or come across something he had published in a magazine—poems or novels, short stories or reviews, perhaps  
5 a translation of one of his beloved French poets—but that moment never came, and I could only conclude that the boy who had been destined for a life in the literary world had gone on to concern himself in other matters.

A little less than a year ago (spring 2007), a UPS package was delivered to my house in Brooklyn. It contained the manuscript of Walker's story about Rudolf Born  
10 (Part I of this book), along with a cover letter from Adam that read as follows:

Dear Jim,

Forgive the intrusion after such a long silence. If memory serves, it's been thirty-eight years since we last talked, but I recently came across an announcement that you'll be doing an event in San Francisco next month (I live in Oakland), and I  
15 was wondering if you might have some free time to spend with me—perhaps dinner at my house, for example—since I'm in urgent need of help, and I believe you're the only person I know (or knew) who can give it to me. I say this not to alarm you but because of the enormous admiration I have for the books you have written—which have made me so proud of you, so proud to have once counted myself among your  
20 friends.

By way of anticipation, I enclose a still-not-finished draft of the first chapter of a book I am trying to write. I want to go on with it but seem to have hit a wall of struggle and uncertainty—*fear* might be the word I'm looking for—and I'm hoping that a talk with you might give me the courage to climb over it or tear it down. I should add (in  
25 case you're in doubt) that it is not a work of fiction. [...]

Hoping for a response.

Yours in solidarity,

Adam Walker

Paul Auster, *Invisible*, 2009

## COMPRÉHENSION

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

- respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter les repères sur la copie (lettre ou lettre et numéro ou lettre, numéro et lettre). Exemples : **1.** ou **1.a.** ;
- faire toujours suivre les citations du numéro de la ligne ;
- répondre à toutes les questions en anglais.

En l'absence d'indications spécifiques, le candidat répondra **brèvement** aux questions.

**Lisez les documents A et B puis répondez aux questions.**

### DOCUMENT A

Read the whole text.

1. What do you learn about
  - a. the main character? (name; age; occupation)
  - b. that character's family and background?
2. Explain in about 30 words the role of the following places in the main character's life:

the Crowing Cock pub; Tailorstown; Belfast; the Ulster Museum

Read from line 1 to line 15.

3. a. "This is not *me*." (l. 6)

Explain the main character's dreams and ambitions and compare them to his mother's expectations.

(20 to 30 words)

- b. "But he'd won the day nonetheless" (l. 12)

Explain in your own words what steps he took to realize his ambition.

Read from line 16 to the end.

4. a. What does the main character's job consist in precisely? Explain in your own words and justify by quoting one element from the text.
- b. Use two elements from the text to show that he has mixed feelings about this job. (30 to 40 words)

## DOCUMENT B

Read the whole text.

5. a. Identify the two main characters and say how they know each other.
  - b. When did they last meet?
  - c. What do they have in common?
6. Who has written the letter? What for?
  7. Which adjectives best describe the state of mind of the author of the letter?

*cynical / doubtful / scared / scornful / self-confident*

Justify in your own words.

8. a. Explain in your own words what the narrator had imagined about his friend's career before receiving the letter.
- b. What does that reveal about his own career?

## DOCUMENT A AND DOCUMENT B

9. Now focus on the main character in document A.  
With which of the two main characters in document B would you rather identify him? To what extent? (30 to 40 words)

**10.** Now focus on the narrator in document B.

In what respects is he different from the other male characters in documents A and B?

**La question 11 ne sera traitée que par les candidats de LVA**

**Read the two documents again.**

**11.** Show how, in both documents, painting and writing are viewed as art forms that provide a means of self-expression. Find two examples in each text.

## EXPRESSION

Les candidats des séries S, ES et L (**SAUF les candidats de LVA**) choisiront le sujet 1 ou le sujet 2.

### SUJET 1

Today, on social networks we create our own portraits and profiles. To what extent do they reflect reality? (300 words)

### SUJET 2

**Le candidat traitera les deux parties a et b**

- a. You've just created your own video game. You'd love to have it produced but you're not sure that it's good enough. You know an expert who could help you out. Write him or her a letter with the following opening lines:

"Dear .....,

I'm in urgent need of help, I was wondering..."

(150 words)

- b. "Only artists have imagination". Discuss and illustrate. (150 words)

Les candidats de LVA traiteront le sujet 3 ou le sujet 4.

### SUJET 3

Can art be both fulfilling and lucrative? (300 words)

### SUJET 4

"The young, defiant artist was unrepentant."

How far would you go to fulfill your dream? (300 words)