

Session 2009

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 1

Série L

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 4

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Compréhension	14 points
Expression	
Traduction	6 points

Le sujet comporte 3 pages numérotées 1/3 à 3/3.

Salim comes running through the door and collapses face down on the bed.

I am alarmed. "Salim! ... Salim!" I shout. "What's happened to you? How come you are back so early?" I turn him on his back. He is laughing.

5 declares. "The most amazing thing has happened today. This is the happiest day of my life," he

"What is it? Have you won the lottery?"

"No. Something even better than winning the lottery. I have seen Armaan Ali."

10 Bit by breathless bit, the whole story comes out. How Salim caught a glimpse of Armaan Ali while doing his daily round in Ghatkopar. The star was alighting from his Mercedes-Benz to enter a five-star hotel. Salim was travelling on a bus to deliver his last tiffin¹ box to a customer. The moment he spotted Armaan, he jumped down from the speeding vehicle, narrowly missing being run down by a car, and ran toward the actor, who was passing through the hotel's revolving door. He was stopped by the tall, strapping uniformed guard and prevented from entering the hotel. "Armaan!" Salim called, trying desperately to catch the star's attention. Armaan heard the cry, 15 stopped in his tracks, and turned around. His eyes made contact with Salim's. He gave a faint smile, a barely perceptible nod of acknowledgement, and continued walking into the lobby. Salim forgot all about the tiffin and came racing home to give me the news of his dream having come true. A customer of Gawli Tiffin Carriers went hungry that afternoon.

"Does Armaan look different from the way he appears onscreen?" I ask.

20 "No. He is even better in real life," says Salim. "He is taller and more handsome. My ambition in life is to shake his hand, at least once. I probably won't wash it for a month after that."

I reflect on how good it is to have simple, uncomplicated ambitions. Like shaking a film star's hand. [...]

25 "Your ambition is to shake Armaan's hand," I say to Salim. "But what do you think is Armaan's ambition in life? He seems to have it all – face, fame, and fortune."

"You are wrong," Salim replies solemnly. "He does not have Urvashi."

The papers are full of the Armaan-Urvashi breakup, after a whirlwind romance lasting nine months. There is speculation that Armaan is completely heartbroken. That he has stopped eating and drinking. That he might be suicidal. Urvashi Randhawa has returned to her modelling career.

30 I see Salim crying. His eyes are red and wet with tears. He has not eaten all day. The heart-shaped glass frame containing a picture of Armaan and Urvashi, on which he had spent almost half his meager salary, lies on the ground, shattered into a hundred pieces.

"Look, Salim, you are being childish. There is nothing you can do about it," I tell him.

35 "If only I could meet Armaan. I want to comfort him. To hold his hand and let him cry on my shoulder. They say crying makes the heart lighter."

"And what good will that do? Urvashi will not come back to Armaan."

Suddenly Salim looks up. "Do you think I could speak to her? Maybe I could persuade her to come back to Armaan. Tell her that it was all a mistake. Tell her how sad and contrite he is."

40 I shake my head. I don't want Salim trampling all over Mumbai² looking for Urvashi Randhawa. "It's not a good idea to poke your nose into other people's affairs, or make other people's troubles your own, Salim. Armaan Ali is a mature man. He will deal with his troubles in his own way."

"At least I will send him a gift," says Salim.

45 He goes and buys a large bottle of Fevicol glue and sets about sticking the shattered pieces of the heart-shaped frame back together again. It takes him a week, but finally the heart is whole, a grid of crisscrossing black streaks the only reminder of the fault lines on which it broke.

"I will now send it to Armaan," he says. "It is a symbol that even a broken heart can be put together again."

"With Fevicol?" I ask.

50 "No. With love and care."

Salim wraps it up in cloth and sends it to Armaan Ali's home address.

I don't know whether it reached Armaan or not. Whether it was broken by the postal department, smashed by the security guards, or trashed by Armaan's secretary. The important thing is that Salim believes it reached his hero and helped to heal his wound.

Vikas Swarup, Q & A, 2006

¹ tiffin: lunch

² Mumbai: the other name for Bombay

COMPRÉHENSION – EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez les questions **dans l'ordre**, en indiquant clairement leur **numéro** sur votre copie.
Lorsque la réponse doit être développée, le nombre de mots ou d'éléments de réponse est indiqué dans la question.
En l'absence d'indications, vous répondrez **brièvement** à la question posée.

1. a) There are four main characters in this passage: the narrator, Salim, Armaan Ali and Urvashi Randhawa. Say whether they are present or only mentioned.
b) What are Salim's, Armaan Ali's and Urvashi Randhawa's jobs?
c) What is Armaan Ali to Salim?
2. a) "The most amazing thing has happened today." (line 4)
What does Salim refer to?
b) What happened on that day was more important than his life and his job. Find two quotations justifying this statement.
3. What elements in Salim's and Armaan's lives show that they belong to two separate worlds?
Use your own words. (30 / 40 words)
4. a) According to the narrator, Armaan "seems to have it all – face, fame and fortune." (line 25)
What event in Armaan's life makes Salim think differently?
b) Quote the line showing how that event affects Salim.
5. a) What two things does Salim first consider doing for Armaan Ali? (20 / 30 words)
b) What does the narrator think of Salim's plans? What argument does he give to him? Use your own words.
6. Salim eventually sends Armaan a frame. In your own words, tell the 'story' of this frame. What does that story reveal about Salim's vision of Armaan and Urvashi's relationship? (40 / 50 words)
7. a) Read the whole text again and describe Salim's personality.
b) Focus on the narrator. Describe and analyse his attitude towards Salim and his passion.
(3 elements – 40 / 50 words)
8. Choose one of the following subjects.
(250 words approximately. Write down the number of words.)

Subject 1

"The papers are full of the Armaan-Urvashi breakup". You are a journalist working for a tabloid. Write the article.

Subject 2

More and more blogs on the Internet are dedicated to stars. How can you account for that phenomenon? Say what you think about it.

TRADUCTION

Translate into French from line 33 (*Look, Salim...*) to line 42 (...*own way*.)