

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2009

ANGLAIS – LVI

Séries ES-S

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 3

L'usage des calculatrices et de tout dictionnaire est interdit.

Barème appliqué pour la correction

<i>Compréhension écrite</i>	<i>10 points</i>
<i>Expression</i>	<i>10 points</i>

Ce sujet comporte 4 pages.

Her son was waiting for her outside¹ when she finally emerged, but even though she saw him at once she gave no sign that she recognized him. The fifty-year-old extremely successful dentist, member of the Royal College of Dentists and a very old London club, did not dare raise his arm and wave to his mother. She walked towards him slowly and, after she reached him, stood staring at him as if he were a total stranger. The son lurched forward and made an awkward, half-bending movement to touch his mother's feet but at the same time surreptitiously tried to look as if he was tying his shoelaces. Mayadevi, who was on full alert, her eyes carefully scrutinizing her son for faults, pounced² like an eagle on the first wrong move.

'Ashamed to touch your mother's feet now, are you? A mother who has not long to live but even then has travelled such a great distance, fasting for twelve hours, sitting with all kinds of half-castes so that she can see her son,' she hissed.

Amit, who was well-known in dentists' circles for his dry, sharp wit, was about to defend himself with a few crisp, well-chosen words, but before he could speak, something clicked inside him. As he looked into that old, lined face, an irrational fear jolted his memory and he said in a whining, childish voice, 'No, Ma ... I ... so many people here,' stammering helplessly.

Now that she had established the old family, Mayadevi told her son to pick up her suitcase and take her to his home. Though the mother and son had not seen each other for more than thirty years, they drove to the semi-detached house in the beautiful, green, tree-lined suburbs in unbroken, stony silence. [...]

'Welcome to England, Mrs Banerjee. Hope you had a nice flight,' Martha, Amit's wife, said cheerfully.

Mayadevi looked up at her tall, large-boned daughter-in-law through the top of her spectacles for a few long, uncomfortable seconds and then said, 'I wish to wash hands. Everything so dirty.'

Martha's plain, good-natured face showed a brief flicker of surprise, but she beamed at her mother-in-law and said, 'Come and see your room and then we will have a nice cup of tea. Hope you like the new curtains we put up for you, Amit did not know what your favourite colour was, so I chose blue.'

She prattled on, her voice full of genuine affection for the old lady she had never met before. Amit crept up to shelter behind his wife's ample frame, as his mother examined the room, and cringed³ each time Martha came too close to her. He knew what would happen if Martha touched her by mistake.

'Are you feeling cold? Should we turn up the central heating?' asked Martha, suddenly feeling cold herself.

Though Mayadevi was shivering in her cotton sari, she said, 'Not cold, only wash hands, so much dirty.'

Martha quickly led her to the bathroom, gaily decorated with trailing plants and fluffy rugs. Mayadevi slammed the door shut on Martha's smiling face and began to wash her hands. First she washed the taps⁴ thoroughly, and then she began rinsing the soap, though it was a brand new one. Then she finally washed her hands meticulously four times in a row. When she had finished she turned the tap off with her elbow, so as not to touch the tap again. She dried her hands by shaking them about in the air, looking scornfully as she did so at the pretty, flowered hand towels Martha had put out for her. Then she went out to search for her son.

'How will I bathe in that jungle you call bathroom? Why has she put carpets in the bathroom? To hide the dirty floor?' she charged full force, happy to have found something to complain about so quickly.

¹ outside: *outside the airport*

² pounce: suddenly attack

³ cringe: move back in fear

⁴ tap: device to turn water on and off

- 50 'Ma, she can hear you,' said Amit, glancing nervously at the kitchen door, even though they were speaking in Bengali. 'You must be tired, why don't you eat the rice I have made for you and go to sleep now,' he suggested, desperately hoping she would agree.
Surprisingly, she did.
55 'If you are telling the truth that she did not make it,' was the only half-hearted resistance she put up and followed him to the kitchen.
'I cooked it, Ma, she did not even touch it. I am not lying to you,' he said, and flushed when he saw Martha watching him even though he knew she could not understand what he had said.

Abridged from *Mayadevi's London Yatra*, Bulbul Sharma, 2007

I. COMPRÉHENSION

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

Les candidats traiteront le sujet **sur la copie qui leur sera fournie** en respectant l'**ordre des questions** et en faisant apparaître la **numérotation** (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant, ex: 15b - **voir en particulier les questions 3, et 5**). Ils composeront des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqué constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée. Les **citations** seront limitées aux éléments **pertinents** et précédées de la mention de la ligne.

1. Mayadevi is the main character. Say what her full name is and give one quotation to prove that she is Indian.

Her full name is Mayadevi Banerjee.

I. 37 'Mayadevi was shivering in her cotton sari'

I. 51 'they were speaking in Bengali'

(Accepter 'half-caste')

2. Say how she is related to Amit and Martha.

She is Amit's mother and Martha's mother-in-law.

3. a) In what country do the three characters meet?

They meet in England.

- b) Explain what Mayadevi is doing there.

She is visiting her son / Amit.

4. What three adjectives best apply to Mayadevi in the first part of the passage (from line 1 to line 21)? Justify in each case with a quotation from the text.

affectionate, authoritarian, distant, embarrassed, moved, overjoyed, reproachful

authoritarian: ll. 18-19 'Now that she had established the old family, Mayadevi told her son to pick up her suitcase and take her to his home.'

distant: l. 5 'stood staring at him as if he were a total stranger'

reproachful: l. 10 'Ashamed to touch your mother's feet now, are you?'

5. a) Draw Amit's portrait (age, occupation, family and social status).

Amit is an upper middle class fifty-year-old dentist married to Martha. He's made it in England.

(Bonifier: His belonging to an old London club is evidence of his successful integration.)

b) Would you say that his attitude corresponds to this portrait? Explain in your own words and justify by quoting the text.

Despite his age and social status, he still behaves like a submissive child. He cowers under his mother's authority and domination.

ll. 15-17 'an irrational fear jolted his memory and he said in a whining, childish voice, 'No, Ma ... I ... so many people here,' stammering helplessly.'

(Bonifier une réponse nuancée qui mentionnerait la retenue britannique seyant à un membre d'une profession libérale.)

l. 4 'did not dare raise his arm and wave to his mother'

l. 7 'surreptitiously tried to look as if ...'

6. ll. 20-21 'they drove to the semi-detached house in the beautiful, green, tree-lined suburbs in unbroken, stony silence.' Account for the atmosphere in the car. (30 words)

The atmosphere must be quite tense. Amit is ill-at-ease in his mother's presence. He feels under scrutiny and finds it hard to talk to her as she is as cold as ice.

(Bonifier : He dreads the day ahead.)

7. From line 22 onwards, where is the scene set?

The scene is set at Amit and Martha's

8. Given the social link between the two women, does Martha fulfil her role? Give four quotations to support your answer.

Yes, she does.

ll. 22-23 'Welcome to England, Mrs Banerjee. Hope you had a nice flight,' Martha, Amit's wife, said cheerfully

l. 27 'she beamed at her mother-in-law'

l. 28 'Come and see your room and then we will have a nice cup of tea.'

l. 29 'Hope you like the new curtains we put up for you'

l. 31 'genuine affection'

l. 35 'Should we turn up the central heating?'

l. 40 'Martha's smiling face'

l. 42 'brand new soap'

l. 45 'pretty, flowered hand towels Martha had put out for her.'

9. Is Martha rewarded for her efforts? Explain in your own words. (20 words)

No she isn't. Her mother-in-law keeps rebuking and ignoring her. She scorns Martha's efforts. She finds everything dirty.

10. How can you account for Mayadevi's attitude towards Martha? (30 words)

Mayadevi behaves as though she were still in India ruling over the family. She may reproach Martha with not being Indian and for causing her son to settle in England. As such, in Myadevi's eyes, Martha deserves nothing but contempt.

11. Is Amit a supportive husband? Analyse his behaviour to prove your point. (30 words)

No, he is not. He behaves like a coward all along because he doesn't dare to confront his mother or side with his wife. He never acknowledges all his wife's efforts and doesn't even try to defend her.

(Bonifier : He goes as far as hiding behind his wife's back.)

12. Translate into French from line 50 to line 53 'Ma, she can hear you...' to '...Surprisingly she did.'

'Ma, she can hear you,' said Amit,	« Mère, elle entend ce que vous dites, » dit Amit,
glancing nervously at the kitchen door,	qui jeta un regard inquiet en direction de la porte de la cuisine,
even though they were speaking in Bengali.	même s'ils s'exprimaient en Bengali.
'You must be tired,	« Vous devez être fatiguée,
why don't you eat the rice I have made for you	et si vous mangiez le riz que j'ai préparé pour vous
and go to sleep now,' he suggested,	avant d'aller vous coucher ? » suggéra-t-il,
desperately hoping she would agree.	espérant ardemment qu'elle accepterait,
Surprisingly, she did.	ce qu'elle fit, à sa grande surprise.

Le tutoiement entre mère et fils est acceptable.

II. EXPRESSION

Choose subject 1 (a+b) or subject 2.

Subject 1:

- Is trying foreign food a sign of open-mindedness? (150 words)
- Should the truth be told in all circumstances? Discuss. (150 words)

Subject 2:

As the saying goes 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do'. Do you think that you should adapt to local customs when travelling abroad? (300 words)

Barème

1. Compréhension : 10 points

Questions	Points
1	2+2
2	2+2
3	a) 2 b) 4
4	3 x 3
5	a) 8 b) 6 + 2
6	8
7	2
8	2 + 4 x 2
9	7
10	8
11	10 (4 + 3 + 3)
12	16

Bonification de 3 points pour chacune des questions 5a, 5b, 6 et 11.

2. Expression : 10 points

Voir grille d'évaluation ci-après.

Guide pour l'évaluation de l'expression personnelle en anglais
Baccalauréat séries L LV2, ES LVI, S LVI et LV2

Suggestions du groupe d'anglais de l'Inspection Générale des langues vivantes

Réalisation (de l'exercice et traitement du sujet : 4 points)	Recevabilité linguistique : 6 points	Total des points
0,5 point - présentation inacceptable - écriture illisible - consignes non respectées - hors sujet - contresens	0,5 - 1 - 1,5 point - inintelligible - lexique indigent - erreurs récurrentes de grammaire élémentaire	/ 10
1 - 1,5 - 2 points - recopiage du support - hors sujet partiel - sujet compris mais traitement plat et superficiel - construction vague	2 - 2,5 - 3 - 3,5 points - compréhension possible malgré des erreurs fréquentes - lexique limité - syntaxe peu élaborée	
2,5 - 3 - 3,5 points - existence d'une problématique - effort de construction	4 - 4,5 - 5 points - erreurs occasionnelles - vocabulaire adapté - syntaxe adéquate	
4 points - enchaînement des idées - développement organisé - références culturelles - conviction, humour	5,5 - 6 points - erreurs rares - vocabulaire riche - syntaxe élaborée - capacité à nuancer	
<p>Dans un esprit d'évaluation positive, on n'hésitera pas à bonifier (en seconde lecture et selon une échelle de + 0,5, / + 1 / + 1,5) les copies qui se lisent relativement facilement, avec intérêt, voire avec plaisir.</p> <p>On tiendra compte du soin apporté à présentation et à la rédaction. On valorisera tout particulièrement les copies dont les auteurs ont <i>réagi</i> au sujet proposé en s'engageant et en exprimant un point de vue personnel.</p>		