

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

SESSION 2002

ANGLAIS LV2

Durée : 3 heures

Série L	
Coefficient : 4	
COMPREHENSION DE TEXTE	10
EXPRESSION PERSONNELLE	10

L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.

**Dès que le sujet est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.
Ce sujet comporte 7 pages numérotées de 1/7 à 7/7**

The woman in reception gave her directions. Go through the day room, then the double doors at the back, turn left and Elsie's in the third room on the right. Unless she's in the day room.

05 Elsie wasn't but the Beast was. Jean always called him that, she had never known his name. He was sitting with the others watching television. A semicircle of chairs was arranged in front of the television, mostly armchairs but some wheelchairs, and some of the old people had fallen asleep. He was in a wheelchair and he was awake, staring at the screen where celebrities were taking part in a game show.

10 Ten years had passed since she had last seen him but she knew him, changed and aged though he was. He must be well over eighty. Seeing him was always a shock but seeing him in here was a surprise. A not unpleasant surprise. He must be in that chair because he couldn't walk. He had been brought low, his life was coming to an end.

15 She knew what he would do when he saw her. He always did. But possibly he wouldn't see her, he wouldn't turn round. The game show would continue to hold his attention. She walked as softly as she could, short of tiptoeing, round the edge of the semicircle. Her mistake was to look back just before she reached the double doors. His eyes were on her and he did what he always did. He winked.

20 Jean turned sharply away. She went down the corridor and found Elsie's room, the third on the right. Elsie too was asleep, sitting in an armchair by the window. Jean put the flowers she had brought on the bed and sat down on the only chair, an upright one without arms. Then she got up again and drew the curtain a little way across to keep the sunshine off Elsie's face. (...)

25 They were the same age, she and Elsie, but she felt younger and thought she looked it. They had always known each other, had been at school together, had been each other's bridesmaids. Well, Elsie had been her matron of honour, having been married a year by then. It was Elsie she had gone to the pictures with that evening, Elsie and another girl whose name she couldn't remember. She remembered the film, though. It had been Deanna Durbin in *Three Smart Girls*. Sixty years ago.

30 When Elsie woke up she would ask her what the other girl was called. Christine ? Kathleen ? Never mind. Did Elsie know the Beast was in here ? Jean remembered then Elsie didn't know the Beast, had never heard what happened that night, no one had, she had told no one. It was different in those days, you couldn't tell because you would get the blame. Somehow, ignorant though she was, she had known that even then.

35 Ignorant. They all were, she and Elsie and the girl called Christine or Kathleen. Or perhaps they were just afraid. Afraid of what people would say, would think of them. Those were the days of blame, of good behaviour expected from everyone, of taking responsibility, and often punishment, for one's own actions. You put up with things and you got on with things. Complaining got you nowhere.

40 Over the years there had been extraordinary changes. You were no longer blamed or punished, you got something called empathy. In the old days what the Beast did would have been her fault. She must have led him on, encouraged him. Now it was a crime, *his* crime. She read about it in the papers, saw about things called helplines on television, and counselling and specially trained women police officers. This was to avoid you being marked for life, traumatised, though you could never forget.

Ruth Rendell : *Piranha to Scurfy and other stories* "The wink"
Arrow Books 2001

I - COMPREHENSION

1°) Explain in your own words where the scene takes place with reference to the text.

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2°) Complete all the boxes in the following grid in your own words. If the information can't be found in the text write "I can't say".

MAIN CHARACTERS	ACTION DURING THE SCENE	RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS	MARITAL STATUS

3°) Fill in the blanks in the following summary :

Jean and must have first met 70 years ago. One night years they saw *Three smart girls*. That night, Jean was attacked and raped by whom she saw years ago. He is now more than

4°) Find in the text the words corresponding to the following definitions :

- a) without really
- b) walking on the extremity of one's feet
- c) quickly closed and opened an eye
- d) the girls who walk behind the bride at church on her wedding day
- e) a married bridesmaid
- f) phone numbers you can call in case of need

5°) From whose point of view do we see the entire extract ? Why did the writer make this choice ? (30 words)

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6°) Describe Jean and Elsie's relationship in your own words (40 to 50 words)

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7°) What do we know about the Beast then and now. Why did Jean choose that name ? (50 words)

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8°) Why did Jean think it was "a not unpleasant surprise" ? l. 11

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