

SESSION 2003**BACCALAUREAT GENERAL****ANGLAIS****LANGUE VIVANTE 1****SERIE L****Durée : 3 heures****Coefficient : 4**

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit
L'ensemble du sujet est à agraffer à la copie d'examen

Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien
9 pages numérotées de 1 à 9.

Compréhension/Expression	140 points
Traduction	60 points

Tom doesn't own a Gameboy. I knew this, and so did David, and we watched him playing with it all through breakfast, and the impossibility of what we were seeing didn't register with either of us. And nor did I get to work and become suddenly distracted by a puzzling image, something slightly odd that I couldn't quite put my finger on. I would like to claim that a mother's intuition made me pick up the phone in order to put my mind at rest, but that is not the case: I only pick up the phone because it is ringing, and I only realize Tom doesn't own a Gameboy when David calls to tell me that we have been invited to the school, to talk to his headteacher about our son's recent spate¹ of thieving.

10 'What's he stolen?' I ask David. 'That Gameboy, for starters,' he says.
Only then does my maternal-detective instinct kick in.

When we get to the school at four, there is an array of stolen goods displayed on the headteacher's desk, like one of those memory games: there's the Gameboy, but also a couple of videotapes, an S Club 7 CD, a Tamagotchi, a whole load of Pokémon stuff, a Manchester United shirt, some half-eaten bags of sweets and, somewhat bizarrely, a paper wallet containing a classmate's holiday snaps.

15 'What did you want those for?' I ask Tom, but he doesn't know, predictably, and he just shrugs. He knows he has done wrong, and he's hunched up in the chair, hugging himself, but there is some part of him that is angry, too. One of the things that has always broken my heart about Tom is that when he is in trouble he stares very intently at you, and one day I realised that what he was looking for was softness, evidence that, despite your disapproval of his misdemeanour², you still loved him. Today, however, he's not interested. He won't make eye contact with anyone in the room.

25 'He's basically been pinching anything that wasn't nailed down, says the head. 'He's not very popular with his schoolmates at the moment, as you can imagine.' She's a nice, intelligent, gentle woman, Jeanie Field, and she's always been very complimentary about our kids, partly, I suspect, because they demand so little of her. They come to school. They enjoy their lessons. They don't hit anyone. They go home. Now Tom has become just another drain on her time and her energy, and it is that as much as anything that is making me feel wretched.

30 'Have his home circumstances changed in any way?'
Where would one begin? The discussion about which parent he would live with in the event of a divorce? The appearance of GoodNews? I look at David, to let him know that it is his unhappy task to explain the events of the last few months in a way that will embarrass nobody in the room, and he shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

'We have had some difficulties, yes.' I realise with horror that since he met GoodNews, David regards the avoidance of embarrassment as a bourgeois hang-up with which he will have no truck³.

40 'Tom, will you wait outside, please?' I say quickly. Tom doesn't move, so I grab him by the hand, pull him to his feet, and march him outside. David starts to protest, but I just shake my head, and he shuts up.

'I'm sure Katie won't mind me saying that she had an affair,' David is saying as I come back into the room.

45 'I do mind you saying that, actually.' I want him to know, just for the record.

'Oh,' says David, baffled⁴. 'It was my fault, though. I was an inattentive and ill-tempered husband. I didn't love her enough, or appreciate her properly. But I ...

¹ a spate : a series

² misdemeanour : bad behaviour

³ to have no truck with : not to get involved with

⁴ baffled : perplexed

well, I ... My shortcomings were revealed to me when I met a spiritual healer⁵, and I think I've changed. Wouldn't you say, Katie?

50 'Oh, you've changed,' I say wearily.

'And the spiritual healer is currently staying with us, and we're ... we're re-examining a lot of our lifestyle choices, and ... Maybe, thinking about it, some of this has unsettled Tom.'

There is a knock on the door, and Tom comes back in.

55 'Have you finished?' he says. 'I mean, have you finished the stuff that I can't hear? About Mum's boyfriend and everything.'

We all stare at our feet.

Nick HORNBY, *How To Be Good* : Penguin 2001

⁵ healer : cf. to heal : to restore to health

Comprehension / Expression

Answer all questions in your own words and in full sentences when possible.

1. Say whether the following characters are present or only mentioned in the text, and specify who they are, how they are related or give their occupation.

	present	mentioned	relationships or occupation
Tom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
David	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Katie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jeanie Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
GoodNews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2. Whose point of view is the episode told from?

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3. True or False? Tick the right box and justify by quoting the text.

	T	F
1. Katie picked up the phone because her maternal instinct told her to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Tom's reaction is different from what it usually is.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The other schoolchildren like Tom.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Tom and his sister are always causing trouble at school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Katie is a faithful wife.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Tom's parents are thinking of getting a divorce.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. GoodNews lives with the family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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4. For each of the following characters, write a short paragraph to answer the questions.

TOM (60 words)

- a. How old do you imagine him to be?
- b. What has he been doing?
- c. Focus on lines 17 to 24. How do you interpret Tom's present attitude?
- d. What event in his life could account for Tom's actions?
- e. What do his words at the end reveal?

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DAVID (50 words)

- a. What is his reaction to the incident?
- b. What are and were his relationships with his wife?
- c. What made him change?

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KATIE (40 words)

- a. Does she know her son well?
- b. Comment on line 50 "Oh, you've changed', I say wearily."

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DAVID AND TOM (30 words)

- They both have problems.
- a. What are they?
 - b. What do they do about them?

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5. Lines 33 and 34. What do the mother's questions reveal about the situation?

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6. Line 43. Comment on David's words and the fact that he says them while his wife is not in the room.

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7. Line 45. Justify the use of the operator DO in the line "I do mind you saying that, actually"

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