

MÉTROPOLE
SEPTEMBRE

Session 2004

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

ANGLAIS

Série L

Langue Vivante 2

Durée : 3 heures

Coefficient : 4

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien 10 pages numérotées de 1/10 à 10/10 .

Compréhension : 10 points

Expression : 10 points

As a general rule, the way to get flowers out of Angus McAllister was as follows. You waited until he was feeling kind-hearted, which happened rarely. Then you led the conversation gently to the subject of flowers in the house. Then, at the right moment, you asked if he could possibly let you have a few. The last thing you thought of doing was to pick the flowers yourself.

5 "I – er ——" said Lord Emsworth.

He stopped. He suddenly saw himself as he was: the weak descendant of a family which in the old days had certainly known how to treat employees. His grandfather and *his* grandfather had known how to speak to servants. Of course, they had possessed certain advantages which he lacked. If they got angry with a head gardener, they had him cut to pieces, and no questions were asked – but in spite of 10 this, he realised that they were better men than he was; and that if he allowed fear of Angus McAllister to prevent this charming girl and her brother from getting flowers, he was not a true Lord Emsworth.

Lord Emsworth struggled with his fears.

"Certainly, certainly, certainly," he said. "Take as many as you want."

And so it happened that Angus McAllister saw a sight which first froze his blood and then caused it 15 to boil. Moving here and there through his sacred gardens was a small girl picking his sacred flowers. And – this made his blood boil more fiercely – it was the same girl who two days ago had thrown stones at him. The quietness of the summer evening was broken by a noise that sounded like boilers exploding, and Angus came towards her at forty-five miles an hour.

Gladys did not wait. She was a London child, ready to be brave in times of danger, but this attack 20 was so sudden that it broke her nerve. With a terrible cry she ran to where Lord Emsworth stood, and hid behind him.

"Oo-er!" said Gladys.

Lord Emsworth was not feeling very good himself. We remember him a few moments ago deciding to put McAllister in his proper place. But truth forces us to admit that this decision was due to the fact 25 that he believed the head gardener to be a quarter of a mile away. Lord Emsworth's knees shook, and the soul within him trembled.

And then something happened and the whole situation changed.

It was, in itself, a small thing, but it had a very good effect on Lord Emsworth. What happened was that Gladys, seeking further protection, put at this moment a small, hot hand into his.

30 She trusted him, and Lord Emsworth intended to be worthy of her trust.

"He's coming," whispered a small voice inside Lord Emsworth.

"What about it?" replied Lord Emsworth bravely.

"Send him away," breathed his lordship's great-grandfathers in his other ear.

He stood up straight. He felt full of a cool masterfulness. If the man resigned, let him.

35 "Well, McAllister?" said Lord Emsworth coldly.

He took off his top hat and brushed it against his coat.

"What is the matter, McAllister?"

He put his top hat on again.

"You appear to be troubled, McAllister."

40 He moved his head. The hat fell off. He let it lie. Free from its hateful weight, he felt more masterful than ever.

"This young lady," said Lord Emsworth, "has my full permission to pick all the flowers she wants, McAllister. If you do not agree with me in this matter, McAllister, say so and we will discuss what you are going to do about it, McAllister. These gardens, McAllister, belong to me, and if you do not realise that 45 fact you will, no doubt, be able to find another employer more – er – agreeable to you. I value your services highly, McAllister, but I will not be ordered about in my own garden, McAllister."

A long moment followed in which Nature stood still, breathless. All the flowers stood still. From far off in the direction of the park there sounded the happy cries of children, who were probably breaking things, but even these seemed quiet. The light wind had died away.

P.G WODEHOUSE

Lord Emsworth and the Girl Friend
(Outstanding Short Stories, 1993)

COMPREHENSION

I) Where do you think the story probably takes place? Justify each answer by quoting from the text. (Indicate the lines).

▪ Country:

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▪ Setting of the story:

.....

II) **Characters:** List all the characters in the left column and tick the right boxes for each of them.

CHARACTERS	MALE	FEMALE	PRESENT IN THE SCENE

III) Classify the three main characters in the story according to the categories below. (write their names).

Upper class	Lower class	Urban

IV) Who do the following pronouns refer to?

- Line 1: **you** waited
- Line 6: **he** stopped
- Line 13: *take as many as you want*
- Line 23: **we** remember
- Line 30: **she** trusted him
- Line 31: **he's** coming

V) From the information collected in II) and III), write a short paragraph, (30 to 35 words) explaining the relationship between the main characters.

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VI) From line 5 to line 26, the events of the story correspond to three different scenes.

a) Scene 1:

Give the names of the two characters and imagine their dialogue :

Character 1 :

- Name :

- '.....?'

Character 2 :

- Name :

- 'I-er-certainly'

b) Scene 2:

Pick out the action which illustrates scene 2
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c) Scene 3:

Use your own words to explain the characters' movements (35 to 40 words)

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VII) One of the characters is described as "*weak*":

a) Which one?

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Justify your answer by quoting two elements from the text. (Indicate the lines)

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b) Among the following adjectives, which one depicts the character's situation best? Circle the right answer.

- hopeless
- logical
- paradoxical

Justify your answer in your own words. (10 to 15 words).

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VIII) Tick the right box and justify your answer by quoting one element from the text. (Indicate the line)

The "London child" (line 19) is...

- well-educated
- cheeky
- shy
- depressed

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IX) Tick the right adjectives among the following. Justify your choice in your own words. McAllister is...

- generous
- kind-hearted
- irritable
- possessive

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X) a) Which sentence marks the turning point in the narrative?

(line).....

b) What action causes this turning point?

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c) What is difficult for Lord Emsworth then? Why?

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d) What else influences his behaviour?

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e) What can the top hat symbolise?

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f) Lines 40 – 41: 'The hat fell off. He let it lie. Free from its hateful weight, he felt more masterful than ever.' Explain what the underlined elements reveal. (25 – 30 words)

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XI) Analyse the main character's attitude throughout the story.

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XII) "A long moment in which Nature stood still..." (line 47) Account for the capital N in "Nature"; what does it suggest? (25 – 30 words)

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XIII) Traduction

Translate into French from line 42 "*This young lady...*" down to line 46 "*..., in my own garden, McAllister.*"

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