

# BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

SESSION 2002

## ANGLAIS LV2

Durée : 2 heures

Série S	
Coefficient : 2	
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 6 pages numérotées de 1/6 à 6/6**

Every night after dinner, my mother and I would sit at the Formica kitchen table. She would present new tests, taking her examples from stories of amazing children she had read in Good Housekeeping or Reader's Digest, and a dozen other magazines she kept in a pile in our bathroom. My mother got these  
 05 magazines from people whose houses she cleaned. And since she cleaned many houses each week, we had a great assortment. She would look through them all, searching for stories about remarkable children.

The first night she brought out a story about a three-year-old boy who knew the capitals of all the states and even most of the European countries. A teacher was  
 10 quoted as saying the little boy could also pronounce the names of the foreign cities correctly.

"What's the capital of Finland ?" my mother asked me, looking at the magazine story.

All I knew was the capital of California, because Sacramento was the name of  
 15 the street we lived on in Chinatown. "Nairobi !" I guessed, saying the most foreign word I could think of. She checked to see if that was possibly one way to pronounce Helsinki before showing me the answer.

The tests got harder – multiplying numbers in my head, finding the queen of hearts in a deck of cards, trying to stand on my head without using my hands,  
 20 predicting the daily temperatures in Los Angeles, New York and London.

One night I had to look at a page from the Bible for three minutes and then report everything I could remember. "Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance and ... that's all I remember, Ma," I said.

And after seeing my mother's disappointed face once again, something inside of  
 25 me began to die. I hated the tests, the raised hopes and failed expectations. Before going to bed that night, I looked in the mirror above the bathroom sink and when I saw only my face staring back – and that it would always be this ordinary face – I began to cry. Such a sad ugly girl ! I made high-pitched noises like a crazed animal, trying to scratch out the face in the mirror.

And then I saw what seemed to be the prodigy side of me – because I had never  
 30 seen that face before. I looked at my reflection, blinking so I could see more clearly. The girl staring back at me was angry, powerful. This girl and I were the same. I had new thoughts, wilful thoughts, or rather thoughts filled with lots of won'ts. I won't let her change me, I promised myself. I won't be what I'm not.

35 So now on nights when my mother presented her tests, I performed listlessly, my head propped on one arm. I pretended to be bored. And I was. I got so bored I started counting the bellows of the foghorns<sup>(1)</sup> out on the bay while my mother drilled me in other areas. The sound was comforting and reminded me of the cow jumping over the moon. And the next day, I played a game with myself,  
 40 seeing if my mother would give up on me before eight bellows. After a while I usually counted only one, maybe two bellows at most. At last she was beginning to give up hope.

Amy Tan – *Two kinds*  
 from *The Joy Luck Club* (1989)

(1) bellows of the foghorns : *mugissements des cornes de brume*.

# I - COMPREHENSION

1°) Tick the right answer.

The text is about :

- a mother's ambitious expectations
- a successful education
- bedtime stories
- a happy child

2°) Tick the right answer.

The action is set in

- the U.S.A.
- Africa
- Great Britain

3°) Tick the right answer.

The characters :

- a) The narrator is a boy
- a girl

Justify your answer with two quotations from the text :

- .....  
- .....

b) They belong to the

- working-class
- upper-class

Justify your answer with one quotation from the text :

- .....

c) The mother tested her child

- once
- regularly

Justify your answer with two quotations from the text :

- .....  
- .....

d) The mother's aspirations.

Complete the following sentence quoting two adjectives from the text :

She wants her child to become ..... and .....

4°) The mother tests her child on different subjects.

Tick the right ones and justify your answers by quoting from the text.

- medicine  .....
- religion  .....
- history  .....
- zoology  .....

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- gymnastics  .....
- mathematics  .....
- geography  .....
- weather  .....
- health  .....

5°) The narrator says l. 25 "the raised hopes and failed expectations"  
 Explain this statement in your own words (30 words)

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6°) Who wins in the end ?

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7°) Vocabulary

Find in the text synonyms for the following words.

- verified : .....
- strident : .....
- hysterical : .....
- opening and shutting my eyes : .....
- looking fixedly : .....
- determined refusals : .....
- without energy : .....
- trained : .....
- after a moment : .....
- to abandon : .....



