

SESSION 2004**BACCALAUREAT GENERAL****ANGLAIS****LANGUE VIVANTE 2****SERIE S****Durée : 2 heures****Coefficient : 2**

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

Avant de composer, le candidat s'assurera que le sujet comporte bien
8 pages numérotées de 1 à 8

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

The little girl who lived in that house happened to be my sister's best friend. One winter night, the two of them went to a costume party (they were six or seven years old, and I was nine or ten). It had been arranged that my father would pick them up after the party, and when the time came I went along to keep him company in the car. It was bitter
5 cold that night, and the roads were covered with treacherous sheets of ice. My father drove carefully, and we made the journey back and forth without incident. As we pulled up in front of the little girl's house, however, a number of unlikely events occurred all at once.

My sister's friend was dressed as a fairy princess. To complete the outfit, she had borrowed a pair of her mother's high heels, and because her feet swam in those shoes,
10 every step she took was turned into an adventure. My father stopped the car and climbed out to accompany her to the front door. I was in the back with the girls, and in order to let my sister's friend out, I had to get out first. I remember standing on the curb¹ as she disentangled herself from the seat, and just as she stepped into the open air, I noticed that the car was rolling slowly in reverse - either because of the ice or because my father had
15 forgotten to engage the emergency brake (I don't know) - but before I could tell my father what was happening, my sister's friend touched the curb with her mother's high heels and slipped. She went skidding under the car - which was still moving - and there she was, about to be crushed to death by the wheels of my father's Chevy. As I remember it, she didn't make a sound. Without pausing to think, I bent down from the curb, grabbed hold of
20 her right hand, and in one quick gesture yanked her to the sidewalk. An instant later, my father finally noticed that the car was moving. He jumped back into the driver's seat, stepped on the brake, and brought the machine to a halt. From start to finish, the whole chain of misadventures couldn't have taken more than eight or ten seconds.

For years afterwards, I walked around feeling that this had been my finest moment.
25 I had actually saved someone's life, and in retrospect I was always astonished by how quickly I had acted, by how sure my movements had been at the critical juncture. I saw the rescue in my mind again and again; again and again I relived the sensation of pulling that little girl from under the car.

About two years after that night, our family moved to another house. My sister fell
30 out of touch with her friend, and I myself did not see her for another fifteen years.

It was June, and my sister and I had both come back to town for a short visit. Just by chance, her old friend dropped by to say hello. She was all grown up now, a young woman of twenty-two who had graduated from college earlier that month, and I must say
35 that I felt some pride in seeing that she had made it to adulthood in one piece. In a casual sort of way, I mentioned the night I had pulled her from under the car. I was curious to know how well she remembered her brush with death, but from the look on her face when I asked her the question, it was clear that she remembered nothing. A blank stare. A slight frown. A shrug. She remembered nothing!

I realized then that she hadn't known that the car was moving. She hadn't even
40 known that she was in danger. The whole incident had taken place in a flash: ten seconds of her life, an interval of no account, and none of it had left the slightest mark on her. For me, on the other hand, those seconds had been a defining experience, a singular event in my internal history.

Most of all, it stuns me to acknowledge that I am talking about something that
45 happened in 1956 or 1957 - and that the little girl of that night is now over forty years old.

Paul AUSTER, *The Red Notebook*, London: Faber and Faber, 1995.

¹ curb = pavement

COMPREHENSION

1) Circle the most appropriate title:

- "A fairy tale"
- "A tragic event"
- "Narrow escape"
- "Shared memories"
- "Thank you for saving my life"

2) Circle the right answer:

a) The main event took place in:

- the 1950s.
- the 1960s.
- the 1970s.
- the 1980s.
- the 1990s.

b) The girl and the narrator talked about it:

- the day after
- about two years later
- in 1995
- in June of the following year
- about fifteen years later

c) The narrator is now :

- in his late teens
- in his mid forties
- in his early twenties
- in his late fifties

Lines 1 to 28

3) Right or wrong? Circle the correct answer and justify by quoting from the text.

1) The three children attended the party.

Right / Wrong

2) The driver did not pay attention to the weather conditions that night.

Right / Wrong

3) The incident happened outside the house where the party was taking place.

Right / Wrong

4) The little girl's shoes did not fit her.

Right / Wrong

5) The girl was getting out of the car when the incident happened.

Right / Wrong

6) The girl lost her balance.

Right / Wrong

7) She shouted at the top of her voice.

Right / Wrong

8) It took the narrator some time to react.

Right / Wrong

9) He pushed her back into the car.

Right / Wrong

10) The boy finally managed to stop the car.

Right / Wrong

4) Describe (In your own words) how the narrator felt after the incident. (20 words)

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Lines 29 to 45

5) Pick out in the text the phrases corresponding to the underlined elements:

a) the meeting had not been arranged:

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b) the girl had succeeded in her studies:

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c) the girl was safe and sound:

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d) the narrator did not want to sound concerned when he talked about the incident:

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6) " A blank stare. A slight frown. A shrug " (l.37-38)

a) Whose reactions do these verbless sentences refer to?

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b) They indicate that the character was : (Circle the correct answer.)

Anxious / concerned /grateful / puzzled / scared / thrilled

7) "Most of all, it stuns me to acknowledge that I am talking about something that happened in 1956 or 1957 - and that the little girl of that night is now over forty years old."(l.44-45)
Explain in your own words what those last lines reveal in connection with the rest of the text. (30 words)

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8) Translate the following sentences:

a) "He jumped back into the driver's seat, stepped on the brake, and brought the machine to a halt." (l.21-22)

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b) "In a casual sort of way, I mentioned the night I had pulled her from under the car." (l.34-35)

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