

BACCALAUREAT GENERAL

SESSION 2002

ANGLAIS LV1

Durée : 3 heures

Série ES - S	
Coefficient : 3	
COMPREHENSION	10
EXPRESSION	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**

All that spring and summer Clancy and I lived on the third floor of the old grey-brick tenement block. It was cheap because the block was due for demolition and all the tenants had notice to quit by September. Most of them had gone already, so that those who remained were like survivors camping in a ruin.

05 We didn't mind. It was all we could afford. We were very young ; we had only just left school. We were absorbed with each other, and we didn't think about what we'd do in a month's time, or when the winter came or we had to find somewhere else to live.

10 We had run away because that was the only way Clancy and I could go on seeing each other without Clancy's parents stopping us. We hadn't run far. Clancy's parents lived in a big, elegant Regency house by the park in Greenwich, and we knew that by going a couple of miles away, into the kind of area they preferred to think didn't exist, we'd be as safe as if we'd fled to the ends of the country. They were not the kind of people to drag the police into a hunt for their daughter. But it was not beyond them to employ some private agency to track us down. And this was one of the reasons why, despite the scorching weather, we seldom left our third floor room.

15 Clancy's family was small. There were only Clancy herself, her mother and father and an ageing uncle who lived in seclusion in an old manor house in Suffolk where Clancy had spent summers when she was small. Clancy's father was obsessively proud of the fact that he was descended from a once noble line which could be traced back to the reign of Henry VIII ; and – like Henry VIII himself – he had turned cold, as Clancy grew up, towards his wife and daughter because they were a perpetual reminder that he had no son.

20 I only met Clancy's mother and father once, and that was by accident one Saturday afternoon when Clancy had promised me her parents wouldn't be back till late. I had gone to the house in Greenwich. We were sitting under the vine in the conservatory and Clancy was urging me to sample her Dad's stock of malt whisky, when her parents suddenly turned up, having changed their plans for the evening. Clancy's father asked me in icy, eloquent tones who the hell I thought I was and told me to get out. It was as if my presence in the house had no connection whatsoever with Clancy, as if I were some random, alien intruder.

25 My own parents were no obstacle to us. They had had me late in life so there was a big gap between our ages, which, oddly enough, smoothed our relations. They did not care what I did with my life. They had a council house in Woolwich and no shining example to set their only son.

30 But Clancy's uncle did not share the parental disdain. This I discovered in about our third week in the tenement. Clancy had to go out now and then to draw money from her Post Office account, which was our sole source of income, at that time. One day she returned with, of all things, a letter from her uncle. Apparently, she had written to him, explaining everything, confident of his trust, immediately after our flight. Clancy showed me the letter.

35 I said : "If he's so much on our side, why don't we go to him ?"

"That's just where they'll look for us first."

"But he won't tell them that you've got in touch."

"No."

40 And then Clancy explained about her uncle.

45 He had always had a soft spot for her and she for him, since the days when she used to play muddy, rebellious games round his estate in the summer. He did not care for her father's sense of dignity or for his precious concern for the family name. He would be quite happy, he said, to sink heirless beneath the Suffolk soil. And he disapproved of the way Clancy was being rigorously groomed for some sort of outmoded high society.

"So you see," said Clancy, putting away the letter, "I had to tell him, didn't I ? It's just what he'd want."

She kissed the folded notepaper.

50 "And another thing" – she got up, pausing deliberately before she went on. "I know for a fact when Uncle dies I'll get everything ; he won't leave a thing to Mum and Dad. So you see – we're all right."

Adapted from *The Tunnel* by Graham SWIFT
from *Learning to Swim and other stories* (1982) Picador

I - COMPREHENSION

1°) Find evidence in the text that the action is set in England (2 quotations).

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2°) State which characters are actually present in the passage.
Fill in the grid. (Some information may be missing.)

Name			Justification (quote the text)
Sex			
Approximate age			
Position			

3°) Which characters are *only* mentioned ?

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4°) a) Describe in your own words the place that the main characters live in.

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b) Why have they come to this particular place ? Give two reasons in your own words.

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5°) Their social background. Compare and oppose the two families.

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6°) a) Explain in your own words : "... *the kind of area they preferred to think didn't exist ...*" (l. 11)

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b) Why did the young couple rarely leave their third floor flat ?

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7°) The parents' attitudes.

Choose among the following adjectives the ones which best apply to :

a) Clancy's father
Scornful – friendly – open-minded – snobbish – understanding – unfeeling
Justify your choice with a short quotation from the text, for each adjective.

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b) the narrator's parents
ambitious – distrustful – indifferent – indignant – snobbish – easy-going
Justify your choice again, in your own words this time.

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8°) Find evidence in the text of their respective parents' expectations or lack of expectations for their children. Just quote from the text.

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9°) In what way is the uncle similar to and different from Clancy's father ?
Use your own words.

Similarities :

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Differences :

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10°) a) Find one word in the text proving the uncle has no children :

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b) In what way does this affect Clancy's future ? Answer in your own words.

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11°) To what extent has Clancy not really decided to leave her social background ?

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12°) Translate from l. 5 : "We didn't mind ..." to l. 7 "... somewhere else to live."

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II – EXPRESSION PERSONNELLE

Answer questions 1 and 2.

- 1°) Imagine a continuation to the conversation between Clancy and the narrator, in which the young man expresses first his surprise and then his doubts about their future life. Clancy tries to reassure him. (100 - 150 words)

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2°) Choose one of the following subjects. (About 200 words)

a) Does money necessarily lead to happiness ?

b) Is the traditional image of man at work and woman at home still valid in today's world ?

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