

BACCALAURÉAT TECHNOLOGIQUE

SESSION 2004

LANGUE VIVANTE I : ANGLAIS

**Séries : STI, SMS, STL, STT (Comptabilité et Gestion, Informatique et Gestion)
et LVI renforcée STT (Action et Communication Administratives
Action et Communication Commerciales)**

Durée de l'épreuve : 2 heures

Coefficient : 2

Le sujet comporte 7 pages.

L'usage du dictionnaire ainsi que des calculatrices n'est pas autorisé.

The company I work for is called Rent-a-Back, Inc. How I got into it is a whole other story, but basically we provide a service for people who are old or disabled. Any load you can't lift, any chore you don't feel up to, why, just call on us. Say you want your lawn chairs piled in your garage in the fall. Or your rugs rolled up and stored away in the spring. We can do that. A lot of our customers have a standing order—like, an hour a week. Others just telephone as circumstances arise. Whatever.

On the Saturday of my trip to Philadelphia, I came home to find a message from my boss on my answering machine. "Barnaby, it's Virginia Dibble. Could you get back to me as soon as possible? We have an urgent request for this evening."

I really liked Mrs. Dibble. She was this dainty, fluttery lady a whole lot older than my mother, but I'd seen her tote a portable toilet down two flights of stairs when we were short-handed. So even though I wasn't in such a great mood, I dialed her number. "What's up?" I asked her.

"Oh, poor, poor Mrs. Alford," she started right in. "She needs a Christmas tree put together."

"A what?"

"An eight-foot artificial Christmas tree. It's in her attic, she says, and she needs it brought down and assembled."

"Mrs. Dibble," I said. "It's New Year's Eve."

"Oh, you have plans?"

"I mean, it's a week after Christmas. What does she want with a tree?"

"She says her seven grandchildren are stopping by for a visit. They're spending the night on their way home from skiing, and she wants the house to look cheery, she says, and not old-ladyish and glum."

"Ah."

Grandchildren ruled the world, if you judged by most of our clients.

"She needs it decorated too," Mrs. Dibble was saying. "She says she can't manage the upper branches, and if she climbed onto a step stool, she's scared she might break a hip."

Breaking a hip was what else ruled the world—the fear of it, I mean.

I said, "Couldn't she tell her grandchildren she did have a tree but took it down? Plenty of folks get rid of their trees on December twenty-sixth, tell her!"

But I knew what Mrs. Dibble's answer would be ("We're the muscles, not the brains," she always said); so I didn't wait to hear it. "Besides," I said, "my car is in the shop and I won't have it back until Monday."

"Oh, Martine can drive," Mrs. Dibble told me. "I thought I'd send the two of you, so as to finish that much faster. Can you do it if Martine picks you up?"

"Well," I said. "I guess."

"All the others have New Year's plans. I'll call Martine back again and tell her to come fetch you."

There were eleven full-time employees at Rent-a-Back. That meant nine people that I knew of had New Year's plans. And these were not particularly successful people. Several might even be looked upon as losers. But still, they'd found something to do with themselves on New Year's Eve.

I - COMPREHENSION :

1. The company. (Complete with quotations from the text.)

a. Its mission :

.....

b. Find two precise examples illustrating what this mission consists in :

(Line... ..)

(Line... ..)

c. Number of employees :

.....

2. The characters.

a. Fill in the table below with information from the text.

| Characters' names | Relationship with the company |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

b. Name the narrator :

.....

c. Who/what do the following words refer to ?

line 2 'you' :.....

line 5 'our' :.....

line 8 'me' :.....

line 11 'her' :.....

line 29 'it' :.....

line 42 'they' :.....

3. The story takes place [tick the correct box(es)] :

- on December 24 th
- on Christmas Day
- on December 26 th
- on December 31 st
- on a Monday
- on a Saturday

4.A. Tick the correct box :

Mrs Dibble :

- went to see Barnaby in Philadelphia
- left a message for him
- asked him to come and see her

4.B. Right or Wrong : justify your answers with quotations from the text.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | R | W |
| a. Barnaby doesn't really feel like calling Mrs Dibble back | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(line.....).....

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. Mrs Alford needs someone to get rid of the Christmas tree | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|

(line.....).....

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| c. For the boss the customer is always right | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|

(line.....).....

5. In the following passage, four elements do not correspond to the text. Underline and correct them.

Mrs Alford wants her house to look welcoming because her grandchildren are coming over

.....
for Christmas. She would like her artificial Christmas tree brought up from the cellar and

.....
decorated. She is scared she might ruin the tree if she climbed onto the upper branches.

6. For each sentence cross out the wrong ending.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a. Finally the narrator | refuses the job accepts the job |
| b. He'll do it | by himself with another employee |
| c. He'll go to Mrs Alford's | by car by bus |
| d. It will | take him a long time be quickly done with |

7. Barnaby tries to find excuses for not doing the job. Pick out four arguments he uses.

(line.....).....

(line.....).....

(line.....).....

(line.....).....

8. Tick the statements that correspond to the characters (there may be more than one answer).

- Mrs Dibble is a demanding employer
- She is a disabled person
- She has an answer to everything
- Barnaby jumps to Mrs Dibble's commands
- He considers himself to be a loser
- He didn't have New-Year's plans

9. Find in the text the equivalents to the following words (from line 1 to line 6).

handicapped

something heavy

unpleasant task

autumn

10. What do the following expressions mean in the text ? (Tick one correct answer for each expression.)

Line 1. The company is named 'rent-a-back'

- because customers are paid back
- because it helps customers pay their rents
- because it helps disabled people
- to make customers come back

line 3. 'you don't feel up to'

- you are not capable of
- you are afraid of
- you disapprove of
- you don't like

line 11-12 'we were short-handed'.

- our hands were too short
- we refused to give a hand
- there were not enough of us
- we had our hands full

II - EXPRESSION :

You must answer question 1 and 2.

1. Choose A or B (80 words).

A. On their way to Mrs Alford's, Martine and Barnaby speak about the job they're going to do. Imagine their conversation.

B. You would like to work for 'Rent-a-Back'. Write a letter to the manager to explain your motivation.

2. Choose A or B (120 words).

A. 'The customer is always right'. What do you think of this statement ?

B. Would you be prepared to have a rent-free room in an old person's flat for a year in exchange for a little help ?