

# BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

**SESSION 2012**

**ANGLAIS**

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

**Série ES/S**

**Durée de l'épreuve 3 heures – Coefficient : 3**

*L'usage de la calculatrice et du dictionnaire n'est pas autorisé.*

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.  
Ce sujet comporte 3 pages numérotées de 1/3 à 3/3.

Compréhension et traduction	10 points
Expression	10 points

If I am to make you understand what the figure of Donald Crowhurst meant to me, when I was an eight-year-old boy, then I must take you back – back more than thirty years, to the England of 1968 – a place, and a time, which already seem unimaginably remote. I'm sure that the mention of that year summons up all sorts of associations for you: the year of student radicalism, the counter-culture – anti-Vietnam rallies and The Beatles' *White Album* and all of that. Well, that only tells part of the story. England was – and always has been – a more complicated place than people would have us believe. What would you say if I told you that, in my memory of things, the great hero, the defining figure of that era was not John Lennon or Che Guevara, but a conservative, old-fashioned, sixty-five-year-old vegetarian with the looks and bearing of an avuncular Latin master? Can you even guess who I might be talking about? Does his name even mean anything any more?

I'm referring to Sir Francis Chichester.

You probably have no idea who Sir Francis Chichester was. Let me tell you, then. He was a yachtsman, a mariner – one of the most brilliant that England has ever produced. And in 1968 he was a celebrity, one of the most famous and talked-about people in the country. As famous as David Beckham is today, or Robbie Williams? Yes, I should think so. And his achievement, although it might seem pointless, I suppose, to today's younger generation, remains, in many people's eyes, much greater than simply playing football or writing pop songs. He was famous for sailing around the world, single-handed, in his boat *Gypsy Moth*. He completed the voyage in 226 days, and most incredibly of all, during that time he made only one stop, in Australia. It was a magnificent feat of seamanship, courage and endurance, performed by the most unlikely of heroes.

I had the enormous good fortune to grow up next to the sea. (...) Although we never sailed ourselves, we knew plenty of people who did: by the age of eight I was a veteran of several modest ocean voyages aboard yachts belonging to my parents' friends, and had developed a deep schoolboy fascination for all things nautical.

No wonder, then, that Francis Chichester and his accomplishment loomed so large in my consciousness. Although we never actually made the pilgrimage along the coast to Plymouth to see him make his return landing in May 1967, I vividly remember watching coverage of the event – along with millions of others – live on BBC television. If I remember rightly, the normal schedules had even been cleared for the purpose. Plymouth docks and the area surrounding them were covered with swarms of well-wishers – hundreds of thousands of them. They cheered and applauded and waved their Union Jacks in the air as *Gypsy Moth* glided into the harbour, surrounded by launches carrying journalists and TV camera crews. Chichester himself stood on the deck and waved back, looking tanned, serene and healthy – not at all like someone who had spent the last seven and a half months enduring an extreme form of solitary confinement. It had been an occasion which made my heart swell with uncomplicated patriotic pride – something I cannot remember feeling very often since. And after that, I began keeping a scrapbook, full of cuttings about Chichester's voyage and any other boating-related stories I could cull from the newspapers my parents favoured.

Jonathan Coe, *The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim*, 2010.

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

Les candidats traiteront tous les exercices **sur la copie** qui leur sera fournie et veilleront à :

- respecter l'**ordre des questions** et reporter la **numérotation** sur la copie (numéro de l'exercice et, le cas échéant, la lettre repère ; ex. : 1a, 1b, etc.)
- faire précéder les citations éventuellement demandées du **numéro de ligne** dans le texte.

## **COMPREHENSION**

- 1 – Give the following information about the narrator: gender, nationality, approximate age.
- 2 - According to the narrator, what is the year 1968 generally remembered for?
- 3 – What was Sir Francis Chichester's "accomplishment"?
- 4 - Say why the narrator thinks Chichester was "the most unlikely of heroes".
- 5 - What aspects of the narrator's childhood account for his attraction to the sea?
- 6– Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Justify with a quotation from the text and indicate the line number.
  - a. The narrator and his family were in Plymouth when Chichester sailed home.
  - b. TV programmes were changed to allow the event to be broadcast.
  - c. When he sailed back home, the crowd was patriotic.
  - d. The narrator has never felt so proud of a fellow-citizen since then.
- 7 – Compare Chichester's looks on his return to Plymouth with what the narrator actually expected.
- 8 – List the values and qualities the narrator admires in Sir Francis Chichester.
- 9 – Translate from "*He was famous [...]*" to "*[...] the most unlikely of heroes*".

## **EXPRESSION**

Choose **one** of the two subjects, A or B:

**A** – Is there a particular event in your childhood that made a lasting impression on you?

**OR**

**B** – Imagine a conversation between the narrator and his son or daughter. They are talking about the kind of hero the world needs today.