

**BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL**

SESSION 2009

**ANGLAIS**

LANGUE VIVANTE 2

Séries L et S

Série L :	Série S
Durée : 3 heures Coefficient : 4	Durée 2 heures Coefficient 2

*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 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4.

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

I had hunted down Jim Rawlings to this old pub, deep in the Kent countryside. He was the last person to have seen Michael Beaumont, successful broker on the Stock Exchange, alive. And he had been a close friend of the missing man. I was working for *People in Business* at the time – and they wanted a story. I was in luck. After a few drinks, he began to relax.

‘Look,’ Jim said, ‘all of this makes no sense in a way. But it’s what he told me, and what I saw myself. Mike was never happy you know. Successful, yes, but happy, no. He married too early. I mean, just look at Marjorie. She looks like a sack of potatoes; voice like a fishwife; brain the size of a pea. Anyway, one day I asked him how things were. It was only a question like, « How’s things then? » But he answered as if I’d meant it! My God, the humiliation! I hadn’t realized what hell an unhappy marriage could be. Then he started to tell me about the girl in green. Shall we have another one?’

‘Mike came from Kent and every year he went back to Fordham for the Midsummer fete. They hold it on the village green. Anyway, in 1966 he went down as usual. Mike told me he’d had a few drinks and was watching the folk dances and the barbecue. There was a big bonfire which they only lit at midnight. He was standing by the big oak tree on the edge of the green. Suddenly there was this girl standing next to him. He’d never seen anyone so beautiful. She was dressed in a long transparent green dress, and her hair hung loose down her back. They talked. She took his hand. They kissed. It all seemed so natural. They sat until midnight under the tree. Then, as the bonfire was lit, she got up and walked towards it. She asked him to go with her but something held him back. He claims she walked straight into the flames and disappeared.’

‘Every year he met her. She would appear beside him, always just as beautiful and as young. They spent every Midsummer’s night together, until the bonfire was lit and she walked into the flames. Every year, she asked him to go with her.’

‘He told me it was only the thought of seeing her again each year that kept him going. He knew he didn’t deserve her. He knew that every year he was getting fatter and less attractive. But she was always the same – and always wanted him to go with her. Come on, let me buy you the last one,’ Jim said.

Jim brought me my drink. ‘Right. So this year he took me with him to the Midsummer fete. We’ve always been good mates, since school. But maybe he had something else in mind. About ten o’clock, I saw him standing by the oak tree on the edge of the green. He seemed to be talking to someone but I couldn’t see anyone. Then, just after they lit the bonfire at midnight, he got up and made his way towards me. He said, ‘I’m ready at last. This year, I’m going with her.’ I never saw him again. No one else seemed to have noticed. It was only the next morning he was reported missing. They never found him.’

I thought carefully about Rawlings’s story then, reluctantly, I decided to write a piece about North Sea Oil instead.

‘**The Girl in Green**’ from *Musical Cheers and Other Very Short Stories*, by Alan Maley, 1997.

## COMPREHENSION

1. a) There are three male characters. Give their names, their jobs; say how they are related to each other. Say if they are present in the story or just mentioned.  
b) Who are the two female characters? How are they related to Michael?  
c) What is the narrator's goal? Explain in your own words. (15 words).
2. In what country does the scene take place? Justify by quoting an element from the text.
3. How often did Mike meet the girl in green? Pick out three elements that indicate it. However, what type of relationship did they develop? (15 words)
4. True or False? Justify with quotes from l.30 to l.37.  
a) Nobody except Mike could see the girl.  
b) Jim thought he was the only person to see Michael leave.
5. What or who do these pronouns refer to?  
(l.4) "They wanted a story"  
(l.9) "One day I asked him how things were" (two pronouns)  
(l.14) "They hold it on the village green"  
(l.36) "They never found him"
6. a) According to Jim, what was the relationship like between Marjorie and Michael? Describe it in your own words. (20 words)  
b) What did Michael particularly appreciate in the girl in green? Explain in your own words. (20 words)
7. Give five elements which show that the girl in green could be an illusion and the situation supernatural.
8. a) Give two elements which show that Michael believes the girl is real.  
b) What does she represent for him? (about 15 words)
9. What is Jim's role in the story?  
a) - for Michael  
b) - for the narrator
10. Basing your answer on the two underlined words of the following quotation (l.38-39), explain what the sentence means:  
« I thought carefully about Rawlings's story then, reluctantly, I decided to write a piece about North Sea Oil instead. »

## POUR LA SERIE L UNIQUEMENT:

11. What do all these quotes reveal about the physical and psychological changes in Michael over time? Explain in your own words (50 words)  
(l.21) "she asked him to go with her but something held him back"  
(l.26-27) "he told me it was only the thought of seeing her again each year that kept him going"  
(l.27) "he knew he didn't deserve her"  
(l.34-35) "I'm ready at last"

**EXPRESSION**

Les candidats de série **S LV2** traiteront **en anglais l'un des deux sujets** au choix (200 mots)

Les candidats de série **L LV2** traiteront obligatoirement **les deux sujets en anglais** (chacun en 150 mots minimum)

1. Jim returns to the village for the next Midsummer fete and meets Michael at the bonfire. Describe their encounter and imagine what Michael tells him.
2. Do you think that in our modern societies we no longer believe in imaginary worlds?