

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2008

ANGLAIS - LV1 Séries ES-S

Durée : 3 heures – coefficient 3

L'usage des calculatrices et de tout dictionnaire est interdit.

Barème appliqué pour la correction

<i>Compréhension</i>	<i>10 points</i>
<i>Expression</i>	<i>10 points</i>

Ce sujet comporte 4 pages.

My father was thirty-four years old when he married my mother in 1904 (she was ten years younger than he) in Montevideo's pretty cathedral. Two years later I was born, their only child, named Logan Gonzago after my respective grandfathers (neither of whom was alive to meet his grandson).

5 I stir the memory soup in my head, hoping gobbets¹ of Uruguay will float to the surface. I can see the *frigorífico* – a vast white factory with its stone jetty and towering chimney stack. I can hear the lowing of a thousand cattle waiting to be slaughtered, butchered, cleaned and frozen. But I didn't like the *frigorífico* and its chill aura of mass-produced death – it made me frightened – I preferred our house and its dense and leafy grounds, a big villa on the chic [...] Avenida de Brasil in Montevideo's new town. I remember a lemon tree in our garden and lobes of lemon-coloured light on a stone terrace. And there was a lead fountain set in a brick wall, with water spouting from a putto²'s mouth. A putto who looked, I now remember, just like the daughter of Jacob Pauser, the manager of the Foley *estancia*, 30,000 acres of the Banda Oriental, the purple-flowered flatlands where the beef herds roamed. What was this girl's name? Let's call her Esmeralda. Little Esmeralda Pauser – you can be my first love.

10 We spoke English in the house and from the age of six I went to a church school run by monoglot nuns on the Playa Trienta y Tres. I could read English but barely write by the time Roderick Poole arrived in 1913 (fresh from Oxford with a pass degree in Greats) to take my slipshod education by the scruff of its neck and make me fit for St Alfred's School, Warwick, Warwickshire, England. I had no real concept of what England was like, my whole world was Montevideo and Uruguay. Lincoln, Shropshire, Hampshire, Romney Marsh and Southdown – breeds of sheep routinely slaughtered in my father's *frigorífico* were what my country meant to me. One more memory. After my lessons with Roderick we would go sea-bathing at Pocitos (where Roderick had to keep his bathing suit on) and would take the number 15 or 22 tram to reach the resort. Our treat was to order sorbets and have them served to us in the gardens of the Grand Hotel – gardens full of flowers: stock, lilac, orange, myrtle and mimosa – and then rattle home in the tender dusk to find my mother in the kitchen shouting at the cook, my father on the terrace smoking his quotidian cigar.

20 The Mountstuart family home was in Birmingham, where my father had been born and raised and where the head office of Foley & Cardogin's Fresh Meat Co. was to be found. In 1914 Foley's decided to concentrate on its meat-processing factories in Australia, New Zealand and Rhodesia, and the Uruguayan business was sold to an Argentine firm, the Compañía Sansinena de Carnes Congeladas. My father was promoted to managing director and summoned home to Birmingham. We sailed for Liverpool on the SS *Zenobia* in the company of 2,000 frozen carcasses of Pollen Angus. The First World War began a week after we made landfall.

25 Did I weep when I looked back at my beautiful city beneath its small, fort-topped, conic hill and we left the yellow waters of the Río Plata behind? Probably not: I was sharing a cabin with Roderick Poole and he was teaching me to play gin rummy.

40 The city of Birmingham became my new home. I swapped the eucalyptus groves of Colón, the grass seas of the campo and the endless yellow waters of the Río Plata for a handsome, Victorian, red-brick villa in Edgbaston. My mother was delighted to be in Europe and revelled in her new role as the managing director's wife. I was sent as a boarder to St Alfred's (where I briefly acquired the nickname "Dago" – I was a dark, dark-eyed boy) and at the age of thirteen I moved on to Abbeyhurst college (usually known as Abbey) – an eminent boys' boarding school, though not quite of the first rank – to complete my secondary education. It is here in 1923, when I was seventeen years old, that the first of my journals, and the story of my life, begins.

William Boyd, *Any Human Heart*, 2002

¹ - gobbets : small pieces

² - putto : small statue representing an angel

NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS :

Les candidats traiteront le sujet **sur la copie qui leur sera fournie** en respectant l'**ordre des questions** et en faisant apparaître la **numérotation**, (numéro et lettre repère le cas échéant, ex 8a). Ils composeront des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqué constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée. Les **citations** seront précédées de la mention de la ligne.

I. COMPRÉHENSION

- 1°) Who is the narrator? (**full name/place of birth/ year of birth**)
- 2°) What do we know about his parents? (When possible give their origin/place of birth/date of marriage/job)
- 3°) In which country did the narrator spend his early childhood?
- 4°) What do we learn about his home at that time?
- 5°) What is the family's social status? Illustrate with three elements from the text.
- 6°)
 - a) What does the term "frigorífico" (ll 6/8/22) refer to? - type of building
- activity.
 - b) What in this place frightened the narrator? Explain in your own words.
- 7°) Who is Roderick Poole?
- 8°)
 - a) Which country is the narrator referring to, line 22 ("my country")?
 - b) What details did he know about that country at that time? (20/30 words)
- 9°) When and under what circumstances did the narrator leave his birth country with his family? Where did they go to and how? (30/40 words)
- 10°) Considering a) and b) what changes did his new life bring between 1914 and 1919? (40/50 words)
 - a) home
 - b) school and other students.
- 11°) In line 5, the narrator says: "I stir the memory soup in my head, hoping gobbets of Uruguay will flow to the surface".
 - a) He says this when he is a :
 - child
 - teenager
 - grown-up
 - b) Explain in your own words what he means. (about 20 words)

12°) According to you, what does the narrator mean when he says (ll 47/48): "It is here in 1923, that the story of my life begins".? (40/50 words)

13°) Translate from line 37 "Did I weep....." down to line 39 "to play gin rummy".

II. EXPRESSION

Vous traiterez l'UN des deux sujets proposés. (250/300 mots)

1°) Do you have a vivid memory of your childhood? Write about it.

2°) How important is nature in your life?