

# BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

**Session 2019**

**ANGLAIS**

**Langue Vivante 1**

**Durée de l'épreuve : 3 heures**

**Séries ES/S – coefficient : 3**

**Série L langue vivante obligatoire (LVO) – coefficient : 4**

**Série L langue vivante approfondie (LVA) – coefficient : 8**

Ce sujet comporte 6 pages numérotées de 1/6 à 6/6.  
Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.

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

## **Répartition des points**

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

## DOCUMENT A

Bob Dylan admitted he was stunned and surprised when he was told he had won a Nobel prize because he had never stopped to consider whether his songs were literature. [...]

- 5 He said from an early age he had read and absorbed the works of past winners and giants of literature such as Kipling, Shaw, Thomas Mann, Pearl Buck, Albert Camus and Hemingway. But said it was “truly beyond words” that he was joining those names on the winners list. “If someone had ever told me that I had the slightest chance of winning the Nobel prize, I would have to think that I’d have about the same odds as standing on the moon,” he wrote.
- 10 The announcement that Dylan had won the literature prize caused controversy with critics arguing his lyrics were not literature. On learning he had been awarded the literature prize Dylan said he thought of Shakespeare. “When he was writing *Hamlet*, I’m sure he was thinking about a lot of different things: ‘Who’re the right actors for these roles? How should this be staged? Do I really want to set this in Denmark?’
- 15 His creative vision and ambitions were no doubt at the forefront of his mind, but there were also more mundane<sup>1</sup> matters to consider and deal with. ‘Is the financing in place? Are there enough good seats for my patrons? Where am I going to get a human skull?’ I would bet that the farthest thing from Shakespeare’s mind was the question: ‘Is this literature?’
- 20 Like Shakespeare, I too am often occupied with the pursuit of my creative endeavours and dealing with all aspects of life’s mundane matters. ‘Who are the best musicians for these songs? Am I recording in the right studio? Is this song in the right key?’ Some things never change, even in 400 years. Not once have I ever had the time to ask myself ‘are my songs literature?’ So, I do thank the Swedish academy<sup>2</sup>,
- 25 both for taking the time to consider that very question and ultimately, for providing such a wonderful answer.”

*The Guardian*, December 11, 2016

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<sup>1</sup> Mundane = ordinary.

<sup>2</sup> The Swedish academy awards Nobel Prizes.

## DOCUMENT B

By the age of ten, I wanted to be a painter, or, even better, a fashion designer. I was fond of drawing sophisticated women in elbow-length gloves, with cigarette holders. I had never seen such a person, but I had seen pictures of them. Such is the enchanting influence of art.

- 5 But after a few unsatisfactory encounters with an oil-painting set, and some complex adventures with a sewing machine – in other words, after reality had replaced fantasy – by the age of sixteen I was pursuing the path of science – like my older brother, Dr Harold Atwood, the neurophysiologist, who is here in this audience today. Odd though it may seem, I intended to become a botanist. Plants were silent and easy to observe, and did not bleed when you cut them up, unlike frogs, so I felt easy in my conscience about it. If that had happened, I would be cloning your glow-in-the-dark potatoes right now. But then I suddenly morphed into a writer, and began scribbling furiously. I don't know why that happened, but it did, and fantasy once more took first place in my life.
- 10
- 15 Being Canadian, I cannot take personal credit for my appearance on your excellent list. Canadians shy away from taking personal credit. If told we have won something, we look behind us to see who was really meant, since it surely could not have been us. Nor can I take any credit for being an activist, which I am often labeled as being. I am not a real activist – a real activist would view her writing as a conduit for her activism – for her important Cause, whatever it is – and that has not been the case with me. It's true that you can't write novels without looking at the world, and that when you look at the world you will wonder what's going on, and then try to describe it; I think a lot of writing is an attempt to figure why people do what they do. Human behaviour, both saintly and demonic, is a constant amazement to me. [...]
- 20
- 25 Every country, like every person, has a noble self – the self it would like to believe it is – and an everyday self – the good-enough self that gets it through the mundane weeks and months when everything is going on as expected – and then a hidden self, much less virtuous, that may burst out at moments of threat and rage, and do unspeakable things. [...]
- 30 Stories, too, can have a good side, and bad side, and a third side that produces unanticipated effects. As a writer of stories I am supposed to say how necessary they are, how they help us understand one another, how they build empathy, and so forth – and that is true. But because I am a writer of stories, I am also aware of their ambiguities and dangers. Let us just say that stories are powerful. They can change the way people think and feel – for better or for worse.
- 35

*Acceptance Speech by Margaret Atwood on receiving  
the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, October 16, 2017*

### NOTE IMPORTANTE AUX CANDIDATS

Les candidats traiteront le sujet sur la copie qui leur est fournie et veilleront à :

- répondre en anglais aux questions ;
- respecter l'ordre des questions en faisant apparaître la numérotation sur la copie ;
- faire toujours suivre les citations du numéro de la ligne ;
- répondre brièvement aux questions en l'absence d'indications ;
- composer des phrases complètes.

## I. COMPREHENSION ECRITE (10 points)

### DOCUMENT A

Bob Dylan (born 1941) is an American singer – song writer, author, and artist whose most celebrated work (in popular music) dates from the 1960s.

1. a. What was his reaction when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature? Quote two elements from the text.

b. What was the reaction of some critics? Why?

2. a. In Dylan's view, what might have been Shakespeare's main concerns when he was writing *Hamlet*?

b. How do these concerns echo Dylan's own preoccupations as an artist?

c. Explain why he chooses to mention Shakespeare.

3. How, according to Dylan, will this Nobel Prize change the way his work is considered? Does he seem to care? Why or why not?

### DOCUMENT B

4. What jobs did Margaret Atwood consider when she was growing up? Why? And why did she change her mind? Copy the chart below and fill it with relevant elements from the text.

dream job	age	motivation	why she changed her mind

5. a. Quote the text to show that she became a writer by accident.
- b. What are the similarities between her first ambitions and her job as a writer?
6. In the last paragraph, she claims that stories are powerful. Explain what she means. (maximum 40 words)

**Seuls les candidats de la série L LVA (Langue Vivante Approfondie) traitent la question 7.**

7. Use the last two paragraphs to show that Atwood sees stories as a means to explore and reveal the complexities of human behaviour and human societies.

**DOCUMENTS A ET B**

8. Use both texts to show that official recognition, for instance through prizes, highlights the power of artists. (+/- 50 words)

**Seuls les candidats de la série L LVA (Langue Vivante Approfondie) traitent la question 9.**

9. To what extent do these documents show that Atwood and Dylan do not entirely control the perception of their works and of their image as artists?

## II. EXPRESSION ECRITE (10 points)

*Afin de respecter l'anonymat de votre copie, vous ne devez pas signer votre composition, citer votre nom, celui d'un camarade ou celui de votre établissement.*

Les candidats des séries ES, S, et ceux de la série L qui composent au titre de la LVO (Langue Vivante Obligatoire) traitent le sujet 1 ET le sujet 2.

### Sujet 1 :

Your favourite artist (singer, writer, painter...) has been awarded a prize. Write an email to congratulate him or her. Make sure to explain how much his or her work matters to you and why. (+/- 100 words)

ET

### Sujet 2 :

Document B, lines 34 and 35:

"[...] stories are powerful. They can change the way people think and feel – for better or for worse."

Do you agree with Margaret Atwood? Illustrate your point of view with examples taken from literature and other forms of fiction. (+/- 150 words)

Les candidats de la série L qui composent au titre de la LVA (Langue Vivante Approfondie) traitent le sujet 3.

### Sujet 3 :

Document B, lines 34 and 35:

"[...] stories are powerful. They can change the way people think and feel – for better or for worse."

Do you agree with Margaret Atwood? Illustrate your point of view with examples taken from literature and other forms of fiction. (+/- 300 words)