

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2012

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Série L

Durée de l'épreuve 3 heures/ série L – Coefficient : 4

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 et expression	14 points
Traduction	6 points

I continued to drive slowly, trying to save petrol, so it was another hour and a half before I reached Junction I of the M42.

– *In half a mile, exit left, towards Birmingham South.*

5 It was the first time she had spoken to me for about ten minutes. I had worked out, by now, that I could summon up her voice whenever I wanted by pressing the 'Map' button on my steering wheel. If you did that, she would usually tell you to carry on doing whatever you were doing at that moment. So every few minutes, I would press the button, and she would tell me to '*Proceed on the current motorway*'. I wasn't listening to the radio. I had tried a bit of Radio 2 and a bit of Radio 4 but I didn't want to listen to other people chattering away. I wanted to be left alone with my thoughts, and with Emma's voice whenever I felt like hearing it.

10 Oh – did I not tell you that she was called Emma? I'd spent most of the last hour trying to decide what I was going to call her. Finally I chose Emma because it had always been one of my favourite names. Partly it was a memory of having to read Jane Austen's novel for English O-Level at school: I hated the book (which was one of Caroline's favourites, by the way) and only got a 'D' in the exam, but for some reason the heroine's name had stuck in my mind as a sort of emblem of classiness and sophistication. Also, I used to have a bit of a crush on Emma Thompson, the actress – going back a bit, to the late 1980s, when she looked really boyish and did that film where she had an amazing sex scene with Jeff Goldblum. So, what with one thing and another, Emma seemed an appropriate choice.

– *Exit left. Then, heading slightly right at the roundabout, take third exit.*

15 Our relationship was going to be put to its first test, now, because I had decided not to follow her instructions for the next few minutes. She wanted me to head down the A38, all the way to the Lydiate Ash roundabout, and then take a right turn towards Rubery. But I had other plans. I wanted to drive straight over the crest of the Lickey Hills and to rejoin the A38 via the B4120 at the bottom of the hill. It was a more scenic drive, and it would take me through some of the landscape of my early childhood. But how would Emma respond? Would she understand the nostalgic impulse that lay behind it?

20 Feeling a little nervous at my own audacity, then, I ignored her insistent repetition of '*Next left*' as I curved around the roundabout, and took the *fourth* exit rather than the third. I imagined what Caroline might have said if I'd ignored her directions in this way, on one of our family holidays. 'No, not this one!' There would have been a sigh of exasperation, and then her voice would tense, slipping into that awful register of angry resignation at my stubbornness and stupidity. 'Fine. If you think you know better than I do, just carry on. I won't bother looking at this any more.' Then she would have thrown the road atlas into the back of the car, narrowly missing Lucy who would be sitting up on her booster seat, listening to the argument with wide-eyed bewilderment, her little brain probably asking itself whether this was how grown-ups always spoke to each other. Yes, that's just how it would have been. I could remember countless scenarios like that.

25 But with Emma, it was different. She said nothing at all, at first. The only sign that she had taken any notice of my decision was a message on the screen that said '*Calculating Route*'. Then, after a few seconds, her voice returned. There was no change in her tone at all. Still calm, still measured. Totally unflustered by my little act of rebellion. '*Proceed for about two miles on the current road,*' she said. And that was it. No disputes, no sarcasm, no questions asked. She accepted my authority, and responded accordingly. God — how easy life would have been, if only Caroline could have behaved more like that! I was already beginning to think that, in Emma, I had found something like the perfect partner. I pressed the 'Map' button, just so I could hear her say it again.

– *Proceed for about two miles on the current road.*

55 Beautiful. I loved the little pause she put in, after the word 'miles'. She spoke it as if it was a line of poetry.

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 – Explain where the scene is set.

2 – What can you say about the main character?

3 – Who is the “*Emma*” mentioned at the beginning? Illustrate with two elements that characterize Emma’s nature.

4 – What other characters, real or fictional, are referred to in this excerpt? How are they related to the narrator?

5 – Why was the name Emma chosen? Give three reasons.

6 – Which of the following sentences (a, b or c) best describes his relationship with Emma? Justify your choice.

a) Emma makes him feel tense and exasperated.

b) With Emma, he feels he can control things.

c) He feels passive and dominated.

7 – The narrator decided “*not to follow [the] instructions*” he was given. In your own words, compare Emma’s reaction to Caroline’s predictable attitude.

8 – “[...] *in Emma I had found something like the perfect partner*”.

8.1. What does this quote reveal about his life at the time and his expectations for the future?

8.2. What would be the qualities of a “perfect partner” according to the narrator?

9 – What contributes to the humour in this passage? Illustrate your point with precise examples.

10 – Translate from *“I imagined what Caroline might have said [...]”* to *“...how grown-ups always spoke to each other.”*

EXPRESSION

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

A – Nowadays, many people feel that modern technology can provide the perfect friend or partner. Discuss.

OR

B – Technological gadgets and equipment often cause arguments and disputes in families. Imagine such an episode.