

# **BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL**

**SESSION 2013**

## **LANGUE VIVANTE 1 : ANGLAIS**

**Durée de l'épreuve : 3 heures**

**Série L : coefficient 4**

**Séries ES/S : coefficient 3**

**Ce sujet comporte 5 pages, numérotées de 1 à 5.**

**Dès que le sujet vous est remis assurez-vous qu'il est complet.**

**L'usage du dictionnaire ainsi que des calculatrices n'est pas autorisé.**

**N.B. : Le candidat répondra à l'ensemble des questions sur sa feuille de copie.**

## DOCUMENT A

A proposal arrived for Radha Aunty even before she returned from America.

I was in my grandparents' drawing room, dusting all their teak furniture when I heard Ammachi telling the aunts and uncles about it. The Nagendras were the family interested in Radha Aunty. At the mention of the name, the aunts let out little sounds of pleasure and admiration. Old Mr Nagendra had been at Cambridge with Appachi, and the families were known to each other. His son, Rajan, had met Radha Aunty at a dinner party in America, and he had been so taken with her that he had written to his parents asking them to make a proposal on his behalf. Ammachi had phoned Radha Aunty and, according to her, Rhada Aunty seemed very amenable to the idea. Rajan would be returning to Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup> a few months after Radha Aunty was to come back.

"What kind of a man is he?" one of the uncles asked.

"An engineer," Ammachi replied. "Works for a big company in America. Very well off."

"An engineer!" one of the aunts cried. "How wonderful for Radha."

"And such a good family, too," another added.

"What about his character?" a third asked.

"Excellent," Ammachi replied. "Doesn't drink or womanize. And we know for a fact that there is no insanity in the family."

As I listened to them, I felt an excitement stir in me, an excitement that had died with my expulsion from the world of the girls. There was going to be a wedding in the family! A real wedding, in a real church with a real bride. I had been at other weddings, but never had a chance to take part in the preparations that went into the marriage ceremony. Now it would be my turn to experience all those delights. I looked around the drawing-room. In a few months this room would be transformed by the preparations for a wedding. I saw it all in my mind: the buying of the sari<sup>2</sup>, the making of the confetti, the wrapping of the cake, the delicious pala harams, the jasmine garlands, the bridesmaids.

Radha Aunty, who was the youngest in my father's family, had left for America four years ago when I was three, and I could not remember what she looked like. I went into the corridor to look at the family photographs that were hung there. But all the pictures were old ones, taken when Radha Aunty was a baby or a young girl. Try as I might, I couldn't get an idea of what she looked like now. My imagination, however, was quick to fill in this void. Since my idea of romance was inseparable from Sinhala films and Janaki's love-comics, the picture I formed of Radha Aunty bore a strong resemblance to that goddess of the Sinhala screen Malini Fonseka. The Radha Aunty of my mind was plump with big rounded hips. She had a fair complexion and large kohlr-rimmed eyes. Her hair was straight and made into an elaborate coiffure on top of the head, and she wore a Manipuri sari with a gold border.

I was so engrossed in my daydream of this lovely creature that I didn't notice that the aunts and uncles had left and Ammachi had come out into the corridor.

"Ah, ah!" she cried angrily when she saw me. "What are you doing here?"

Without replying, I turned and ran back into the drawing room.

"I'm coming to check your work soon," Ammachi called out warningly. I began to fervently dust her furniture.

Shyam Selvadurai, *Funny boy*, 1994

<sup>1</sup> Sri Lanka: an island country in the Northern Indian Ocean

<sup>2</sup> sari : a piece of clothing worn by women in some Asian countries

## DOCUMENT B

### The young entrepreneurs heading back to Indian homeland

By Rajini Vaidyanathan BBC News, Mumbai

As India's economy grows, tens of thousands of young Indians who have studied overseas are heading back to their homeland, drawn by rising living standards. It's a phenomenon known as the reverse brain drain.

5 Like many Indians, Janki left India to study overseas, hoping to gain a broader world view and a good education. She studied design in Atlanta, then worked in New York, before returning to India to start her own camping company.

"India is a very exciting market, and right now is a great time to come back to India to start something on your own," she says.

10 Two years ago, Janki and her husband set up Big Red Tent, a company that runs weekends in the Indian countryside, and hopes to broaden the appeal of camping in India, where it is still not that common.

The economic downturn in the United States and a sense that India was "more conducive" to new business ideas was what drove them to start up a company back home.

15 "If we were in the States we'd be one of many camping companies in a saturated market, whereas here we have the space and support to start up.

"India is a fantastic untapped market, open to experimental and innovative ideas, and the middle classes now have the money and are willing to try new things," says Janki.

20 Cultural affinity and family ties have often been reasons why Indians return home after studying. But the business potential that India offers right now, makes it an even more attractive prospect says Avdesh Mittal, a partner at the Mumbai<sup>3</sup> branch of international headhunters Heidrick and Struggles.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia>, 30 May 2011

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<sup>3</sup> Mumbai: Bombay

## COMPRÉHENSION

### Focus on document A.

1. Complete the sentences below with the appropriate characters:  
Rajan, Radha Aunty, Ammachi, Old Mr Nagendra. (One name for each sentence)
  - a) ... is the narrator's aunt.
  - b) ... is an engineer.
  - c) ... went to Cambridge with the narrator's grandfather.
  - d) ... is the narrator's grandmother.
  
2. **Focus on Radha Aunty.**
  - a) Which country is she in at the moment?
  - b) Which country is she coming back to?
  
3. Lines 21-22: "There was going to be a wedding in the family!"
  - a) Which two characters are getting married?
  - b) How did they meet?
  - c) How did the future husband ask for the girl's hand? Answer in your own words.
  - d) How did the girl react to that proposal? Explain and justify your answer with a quote from the text.
  
4. Does the girl's family approve of this union? Explain why or why not.  
Give four reasons. (30 words)
  
5. **Focus on the narrator.**
  - a) How old is the narrator? Justify your answer with a quote from the text.
  - b) How does the narrator feel about the wedding? Explain why.
  - c) What elements show that the narrator's vision of the future wedding is idealized?  
(40 words)

### Focus on document B.

6. Which segment of the Indian population is this article about?
  
7. Explain what the "reverse brain drain" is (line 3). Use your own words. (30 words)
  
8. List the reasons that explain this phenomenon. Give five different reasons.(50 words)

**Focus on documents A and B.**

9. What reasons do the characters in documents A and B have for going back home?  
(50 words)

**EXPRESSION**

Choose one of the following subjects: subject 1 or subject 2.  
300 words (+/- 15 words). Give the number of words.

**Subject 1:** Do you feel mobility is an obligation or an opportunity in today's world?  
Discuss and illustrate with examples.

**Subject 2:** Radha Aunty arrives home. Imagine the scene and the conversation  
between the different members of the family.