

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 1

Séries L, ES, S

Séries ES - S : durée : 3 heures - Coefficient : 3
Série L : durée : 3 heures - Coefficient : 4

L'usage du dictionnaire et des calculatrices est interdit.

Dès que ce sujet vous est remis, assurez-vous qu'il est complet.
Ce sujet comporte 5 pages numérotées 1/5 à 5/5

Répartition des points

Compréhension	10 points
Expression	10 points

Text A

As I pushed open the front door of my house, I expected to feel the dead weight of piles of junk mail behind it. But there wasn't that much. Maybe a dozen envelopes. To be honest, I would have expected more than that, after an absence of three weeks. Leaving my suitcase in the hall, I scooped up the letters and carried them into the sitting room. It was freezing in there. Needless to say, there was no sound of a radio drifting in from the kitchen, no smell of freshly brewed coffee wafting through the hall. Caroline and Lucy were – as I'd known they would be – more than 200 miles away. Maybe they had written one of these letters, all the same. When they first went away, Lucy used to write to me quite often – every couple of weeks or so – usually enclosing some drawing, or collage, or piece of writing that she'd done at school. But the letters had been slowing down lately. I think the last time I'd received one had been in November. Let me see... I skimmed through the envelopes, and could quickly see that there was nothing from her. Three credit card bills. Letters from gas and electricity suppliers touting for business. Bank statements, mobile phone bills. The usual crap. Nothing of interest there at all.

I went into the kitchen to turn the heating on, and boil the kettle, and while I was there I glanced at the answering machine mounted on the wall. It blinked a number back at me. 'Five'. Five phone messages, while I'd been away for almost a month? This was ridiculous. Did I dare to listen to them?

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I made a mug of strong tea and took a couple of sips before pressing the "Play" button on the answering machine. But my mood of trembling anticipation was short-lived. There was a message from my employer, reminding me to come in for a final meeting with the Occupational Health Officer in a few days' time. There were two messages from my dentist. [...] Then there were two blank messages, consisting simply of long electronic beeps followed by the noise of somebody hanging up. [...]

So much for the telephone.

Well, maybe Facebook would cheer me up. I had more than seventy friends on Facebook, after all. Surely that must have created some activity while I'd been away. I took my tea upstairs, settled down in front of the computer and logged in to my home page.

Nothing.

I stared at the screen in shock. Not a single friend had sent me a message or posted anything on my wall in the last month. If the evidence was to be believed, in other words, not one of those seventy people had thought of me once during my absence.

Jonathan Coe, *The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim*, 2010

Text B

"I was interested in knowing if it was possible to be independent of modern technology," [Gene Rosellini] told an *Anchorage Daily News* reporter, Debra McKinney, a decade after arriving in Cordova. He wondered whether humans could live as our forebears had when mammoths and saber-toothed tigers roamed the land or whether our species had moved too far from its roots to survive without gunpowder, steel, and other artifacts of civilization. With the obsessive attention to detail that characterized his brand of dogged genius, Rosellini purged his life of all but the most primitive tools, which he fashioned from native materials with his own hands.

"He became convinced that humans had devolved into progressively inferior beings," McKinney explains, "and it was his goal to return to a natural state. He was forever experimenting with different eras – Roman times, the Iron Age, the Bronze Age. By the end his lifestyle had elements of the Neolithic."

He dined on roots, berries, and seaweed, hunted game with spears and snares, dressed in rags, endured the bitter winters. He seemed to relish the hardship. His home above Hippie Cove was a windowless hovel, which he built without benefit of saw or ax: "He'd spend days," says McKinney, "grinding his way through a log with a sharp stone."

As if merely subsisting according to his self-imposed rules weren't strenuous enough, Rosellini also exercised compulsively whenever he wasn't occupied with foraging. He filled his days with calisthenics(1), weight lifting, and running, often with a load of rocks on his back. During one apparently typical summer he reported covering an average of eighteen miles daily.

Rosellini's "experiment" stretched on for more than a decade, but eventually he felt the question that inspired it had been answered. In a letter to a friend he wrote,

I began my adult life with the hypothesis that it would be possible to become a Stone Age native. For over 30 years, I programmed and conditioned myself to this end. In the last 10 of it, I would say I realistically experienced the physical, mental, and emotional reality of the Stone Age. But to borrow a Buddhist phrase, eventually came a setting face-to-face with pure reality. I learned that it is not possible for human beings as we know them to live off the land(2).

Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild*, 1996

(1) calisthenics : physical exercises intended to develop a strong body.

(2) to live off the land : to eat whatever food you can grow, kill or find yourself.

I – Compréhension

Text A

1. Read the whole text and then concentrate on the first three lines. Say
 - 1.1. where the narrator is;
 - 1.2. why he is there.

2. Read the first paragraph again. Say
 - 2.1. who are the other characters mentioned;
 - 2.2. where they are;
 - 2.3. how the narrator is related to each of them.

3. Read the whole text and retrace the steps of the narrator from room to room. For each room say:
 - what the narrator would have liked to find in it;
 - what he found;
 - his state of mind as a result.

We suggest that you present your findings in a table like this one:

Room	What the narrator would have liked to find in it	What he found	His state of mind as a result (you may use adjectives or nouns). Quote from the text to justify each of your answers. There may be more than one feeling per room

4. Use your answers to the preceding question to draw a psychological portrait of the narrator insisting on his relationships with other people. (30-50 words)

Text B

1. Read the whole text and
 - 1.1. say which of the following suggestions best defines its genre:
 - adventure novel set in the prehistoric age;
 - nonfiction narrative of a scientific test;
 - autobiography of the winner of a reality show like *Survivors*.
 - 1.2. Quote a word that is repeated in the text (as a noun and verb) to justify your answer.

2. Say what Gene Rosellini wanted to find out and identify two quotations in the text to justify your answer.
3. Quote extracts from the text showing what he did to prove his point in the following domains:
 - food (vegetables and meat)
 - clothes
 - housing
 - free time
4. Do you think he was alone or in the company of many people to do what he did? Briefly justify your answer.
5. Say what conclusion he reached at the end of his quest.
6. Concentrate on the following quotations:
 - "He became convinced that humans had devolved into progressively inferior beings" (lines 9-10)
 - "For over 30 years, I programmed and conditioned myself [to become a Stone Age native]." (lines 25-26)
 - "I learned that it is not possible for human beings as we know them to live off the land." (lines 28-29).

Use them to briefly sum up the steps in the evolution of Rosellini's attitude to other people. (30-50 words)

Texts A and B

7. Text A's narrator and Text B's main protagonist do not have the same attitude concerning solitude. Compare them. (+/- 30 words)
8. Compare how text A and text B provide answers to the following question: do we need other people in order to exist? (+/- 40 words)

II – Expression

Write two essays (one for each of the following subjects).

1. "I was interested in knowing if it was possible to be independent of modern technology" (Text B, lines 1-2). Using this definition of technology, say what "artifact(s) of modern civilization" (Text B, line 6) you could not live without and why. (+/- 100 words).
2. Would you envisage cutting yourself off from civilization or retreating to a quiet place for a month? Why or why not? If you answered yes, say what you would use this time for. (+/- 200 words).