

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2011

ANGLAIS

Langue vivante 1

Séries ES et S

Durée : 3 heures - Coefficient 3

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

Compréhension écrite : 10 points

Expression : 10 points

Le sujet comporte 5 pages numérotées de 1 à 5.

[The scene takes place during the Second World War].

Walking along in the cloudy sunshine, war seemed remote and unimaginable. Roberta wondered how she could be doing this to her beloved daughter. Perhaps war would not touch them. Perhaps it would not happen. Would any German planes really fly as far as London?

5 After her husband joined up, her first thought had been to leave the city with Anna. But they had no family outside London, nor the means to move. So, like other reluctant mothers, she had signed up for the evacuation scheme: all the parents at Anna's school had been urged to take part. At first she had thought she could go with Anna, but was later informed that only nursing mothers would be able to stay with their children. It'll only be temporary, Roberta told herself.

10 Anna, meanwhile, had no such trepidation. She assumed that all the evacuees would be going to the seaside, like a holiday. She had only ever been on a beach once before, at Margate, and she was longing to run through wet sand again. And now she had her own bathing costume, packed and ready.

15 She was expecting adventure; she had read so many fairy tales that she longed to set out into the world alone. Like Dick Whittington¹. The long road, the child with a small case, it seemed only natural.

20 Her shoes were polished, her socks were clean. She carried her kit with pride. She did not fear parting, her mother's face felt closer than her pulse. She could not yet imagine any rift.

25 Beneath the red-brick gaze of the old Victorian school they joined an uneasy crowd of mothers, fathers, children, all there to say farewell. Children were crying, some of them howling. Mothers also were weeping. A sudden sadness washed over Roberta, though she and Anna were too resolutely independent to make any public display of sentiment. But still Roberta's resolve wavered. She sought out a head teacher to ask where the children would be going.

"Buses will take them to St Pancras station."

"Can we go with them there?"

30 "No, I'm sorry," he said defensively, "you must say goodbye here."

There was a long wait in the school yard, and children sat on the ground, yawning. Roberta and Anna stood together, not saying much, just holding hands. Soon they were organized into class lines, with teachers ticking names on clipboards. Roberta was proud that Anna looked so pretty, so bright and fresh.

She could always take her back home again.

35 Suddenly the buses arrived, coming on from another school in World's End. Before Roberta had the chance to change her mind and retrieve her child, the crowd's momentum had swept Anna's class forwards. Without a backwards glance, Anna hurried to find a seat. She put down her bags and realized that, after so much waiting, she had hardly said goodbye to her mother. She pressed her face to the window.

40 There she was below, looking up at her – gleaming brown hair, and a smile meant for her alone, wishing her every joy and all good things.

45 "Goodbye, Mummy!" called Anna, through the glass. Suddenly, she began crumpling inside as she fixed her gaze on her mother. She could feel the pull of her mother's eyes right through her – until she was going, gone, and Anna was away on her journey.

50 She sank down in her seat. The bus had a sour smell of stale cigarettes which made her nauseous. She yawned in the heat; there wasn't much air. She felt odd – excited and suspended in a strange new world, where anything might happen. She did not miss her mother yet, because she was still so firmly rooted inside her – her face, her voice, her touch.

55 But for Roberta the separation was immediate. She walked back home from the school feeling limp, like a wilting² plant. The trees she passed looked parched³ and weary⁴, and the pavement was cracked beneath her feet. The dryness of late summer was all around her, and the streets seemed unnaturally deserted.

Had she made the right choice?

Rosie ALISON, *The Very Thought of You*, 2009

1. **Dick Whittington:** a fictional character who went to London as a young boy to make his fortune.
2. **A wilting plant:** a plant that has not been watered.
3. **Parched:** very dry
4. **Weary:** very tired

I. COMPREHENSION

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**. Ils composeront des phrases complètes chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger les réponses. **Le nombre de mots** indiqués constitue une exigence minimale. En l'absence d'indication, les candidats répondront brièvement à la question posée. Les **citations** seront limitées aux éléments pertinents et précédés de la mention de la ligne.

General comprehension:

- 1) The characters:
 - a) Pick out four individual characters and say how they are related.
 - b) Which one isn't present in the scene? Why?

- 2) The location:
Pick out two London place names to justify that the scene takes place there.

Detailed comprehension:

Read down to line 10:

- 3) Explain in your own words what the evacuation scheme consisted in. (20 words)

- 4) How did Roberta feel about letting Anna participate in the evacuation scheme? Why? Give two reasons. (25 words)

Read from line 11 to line 20:

- 5) Pick out the two adjectives which best describe Anna's feelings about being evacuated. Justify with one different quotation for each adjective.

angry – detached – worried – eager – apprehensive – afraid – thrilled – indifferent

- 6) Choose the statement which best sums up the passage from line 18 to line 20.
 - a) She realized she was in danger.
 - b) She was unaware of the potential gravity of the situation.
 - c) She was proud to be going to a new school.

Read from line 21 to line 26:

- 7) Contrast Anna's and Roberta's attitude to that of the others. Explain in your own words. (20 words)

Read from line 27 to line 40:

- 8) Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Justify with a quotation from the text and indicate the line number.
- The children left immediately after Roberta spoke to the headmaster.
 - The children were gathered according to age.
 - Anna boarded the bus without any hesitation.

Read from line 41 to the end:

- 9) Say who or what the following underlined words taken from the text refer to.
- Line 41: "There she was below, looking up at her."
- Line 50: "... because she was still so firmly rooted inside her."
- Lines 50-51: "... – her face"
- 10) Explain in your own words how the description of the landscape at the end of the text reflects Roberta's state of mind. (30 words)

II. EXPRESSION

Choose one of the following subjects. Indicate the number of words you have used.

- Roberta meets a neighbour on returning home from Anna's school. They have a conversation about what has just happened. Imagine their dialogue.
(300 words)
- How can going to new places be an enriching experience for children? Use examples to illustrate your arguments.
(300 words)