

BACCALAURÉAT GÉNÉRAL

SESSION 2007

ANGLAIS

LANGUE VIVANTE 1

Série ES - S

DUREE DE L'ÉPREUVE : 3 heures - COEFFICIENT : 3

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	10 points
Expression	10 points

He had taken this Saturday job in good faith, having always admired the global brand behind these stores, the scope and ambition of their vision. He had been particularly impressed by this section of the application form:

- 5 Our companies are part of a family rather than a hierarchy. They are empowered to run their own affairs, yet other companies help one another, and solutions to problems come from all kinds of sources. In a sense we are a community, with shared ideas, values, interests and goals. The proof of our success is real and tangible. Be a part of it.

- 10 He had wanted to be a part of it. Levi liked the way the mythical British guy who owned the brand was like a graffiti artist, tagging the world. Planes, trains, finance, soft drinks, music, cellphones, vacations, cars, wines, publishing, bridal wear – anything with a surface that would take his simple bold logo. That was the kind of thing Levi wanted to do one day. He'd figured that it wasn't such a bad idea to get a little sales assistant job with this enormous firm, if only to see how their operation worked from the inside. Watch, learn, supplant¹ – Machiavelli style. Even when it turned out to be tough work for bad pay, he'd stuck with it. Because he believed that he was part of a family whose success was real and tangible, 15 despite the \$6.89 an hour he was being paid.

- Then out of nowhere this morning he received a message on his pager from Tom, a nice kid who worked in the Folk Music section of the store. According to Tom, there was a rumour going around that the floor manager, Bailey, required all floor and counter staff to work Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It then struck Levi that he had never seriously considered precisely what his employer, the impressive 20 global brand, really meant by these *shared ideas, values, interests and goals* of which he and Tom and Candy and Gina and LaShonda and Gloria and Jamal and all the rest supposedly partook. *Music for the people? Choice is paramount²? All music all the time?*

'Get the money,' suggested Howard³ at breakfast. 'No matter what. That's their motto.'

'I am *not* working Christmas Day,' said Levi.

- 25 'Nor should you,' agreed Howard.

'That's just not happening. That's bullshit.'

'Well, if you really feel like that, then you need to get your fellow employees together and implement some kind of direct action.'

'I don't even know what that is.'

- 30 Over their toast and coffee, Levi's father explained the principles of direct action as it was practised between 1970 and 1980 by Howard and his friends. He spoke at length about someone called Gramsci⁴ and some people called the Situationists⁵. Levi nodded quickly and regularly, as he had learned to do when his father made speeches of this kind. He felt his eyelids tugging low and his spoon heavy in his hand.

- 35 'I don't think that's how things go down now,' Levi said at last, gently, not wanting to disappoint his father, but needing to catch the bus. It was a nice enough story, but it was making him late for work.

- Now Levi arrived at his sector in the west wing of the fourth floor. He'd been recently promoted, although it was more of a conceptual promotion than a fiscal one. Instead of having to be wherever he was needed, he now worked exclusively in Hip-hop, R & B and Urban; he had been encouraged to 40 believe that this would involve him imparting his knowledge of these genres to knowledge-seeking customers, just as the librarians who once walked this floor had helped the readers who came to them. But that wasn't exactly how it had panned out. *Where are the toilets? Where is Jazz? Where is World Music? Where is the café? Where is the signing?* What he did most Saturdays wasn't all that different from standing on a street corner with an arrow sign, directing people to an army surplus store. And, 45 although the dusty light sifted delicately through the high windows, and the spirit of studious contemplation lingered on in the phoney Tudor-style panelling of the walls and the carved roses and tulips that decorated the many balconies, no one in here was genuinely seeking enlightenment.

Zadie Smith, *On Beauty*, 2005

¹ supplant: *évincer*

² paramount: *primordial*

³ Howard: Levi's father

⁴ Gramsci: (1891-1937) Italian writer and political theorist, member of the Italian Communist party.

⁵ Situationists: small group of international political and artistic agitators formed in 1952.

NOTE AUX CANDIDATS

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

- respecter l'ordre des questions et reporter la numérotation sur la copie ; (numéro et lettre repère, le cas échéant ; ex. : 6b) ;
- faire précéder les citations de la mention de la ligne ;
- composer des phrases complètes à chaque fois qu'il leur est demandé de rédiger la réponse.

COMPREHENSION

1. What do you know about Levi: approximate age, job, plans for the future? Explain in your own words. (40-50 words)
2. What values particularly impressed Levi in the application form (Find three elements).
3. True or false? Justify by quoting from the text.
 - a. Levi found a job in a small independent store.
 - b. Levi was impressed by the stores' owner.
 - c. Levi worked for a one-product brand.
 - d. One of Levi's aims was to understand how the firm worked.
 - e. Levi thought he was getting a good salary for his job.
4. What was Levi's secret dream? Quote the text.
5. Observe the main verb form in the first part of the text (ll. 1-15): *He had taken, he had been particularly impressed...* Compare it to the main verb form in the rest of the text. What does the change indicate?
6. When does the action take place: time in the year, day, time of the day?
7. Explain what Tom announced to Levi. (20 words)
8. How did Levi react to this news? What explains this reaction? (30 words)
9. Howard's reaction.
 - a. What did he think of the firm's mottoes? (30 words)
 - b. What did he think of his son's intention? (15 words)
 - c. What did he advise him to do? (20-30 words)

10. How did Levi react to his father's speech? (40 words)
11. Translate from "*I don't think...*" (l. 35) to "*... late for work.*" (l. 36)
12. Explain in what way Levi's job changed and what his reaction to this change was. Answer in your own words, including quotations from the text (50-60 words)

EXPRESSION

Choose **one** of the following subjects (250 words)

1. Levi writes a letter to his employer to explain the decision he took about Christmas.
2. What are the advantages and drawbacks of mega-stores over independent stores?