

# Maturité gymnasiale 2021

# A N G L A I S

Examen écrit  
(3 heures)



Baccalaureate 2021

OS English (3-hour exam)

PART ONE: Listening [20 pts]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

You will hear an interviewer (I) interviewing two students for a student magazine. The students, Penny (P) and Giles (G), have both just returned to Britain after travelling around the world.

- For questions 1-12, complete the sentences using between 1-4 words. (1 point)
- For questions 13-16, answer the comprehension questions as fully as possible. (2 points)
- You will hear the interview twice. You now have four minutes to read through the questions.

(I) As I explained in my email, I'm planning to write an article for the university magazine about \_\_\_\_\_ (1) who've travelled round the world.

(G) I first went to Belgium, intending to stay for a week then move on, but it soon \_\_\_\_\_ (2) that all I'd get out of it would be a tourist's view.

So I got a temporary job \_\_\_\_\_ (3) and decided to spend a few months in every country I visited.

You see, my ambition is to become a journalist, so I \_\_\_\_\_ (4) of producing three articles a week about the places I visited, ...

(I) Penny, did you have many surprises during your trip ?

(P) Oh yes ! I've always been interested in the rest of the world, and thought I was \_\_\_\_\_ (5). But the trip proved to me that actually I'm pretty ignorant ...

(G) I learnt so much more on the trip than I'd anticipated – about all sorts of things. I even managed to \_\_\_\_\_ (6) a smattering of several languages.

(P) Yes. I \_\_\_\_\_ (7) without all those people who listened patiently while I struggled to speak their language!

(I) Did you meet many tourists on your travels?

(P) I visited several tourist areas and was really struck by the impact that tourism has..... tourism even gives an impetus to traditional crafts to some extent, because visitors buy \_\_\_\_\_ (8) as mementos.

(I) Giles, are there incidents you could tell me about, that I could put in the article ?

(G) Well, I spent three months in Thailand, again working in a café, and met a \_\_\_\_\_ (9) who were also travelling, and we had a good time together.

(I) And do you now intend to try and break into journalism? You mentioned that was your plan.

(G) That's right. But I've still got itchy feet, so I may \_\_\_\_\_ (10) on an English-language newspaper or magazine...and I'd like to develop an interest in politics further, so I'm applying to \_\_\_\_\_ (11), which I hope will be useful...

(I) Penny, how did you feel when you finished your trip ?

(P) Foreign countries that seem exotic from a distance can be quite mundane when you're there, or you may feel you've achieved your dream too early in life, and there's nothing left to \_\_\_\_\_ (12). Luckily, it wasn't like that for me.

PART ONE: Listening (cont.)

**Comprehension questions 13 -16 (2 points each):**

(13) Penny says that tourism ‘gives an impetus to traditional crafts’,  
Name **two other ways** Penny says tourism can have a **positive** impact on a region.

---

---

---

(14) What type of **tourist** does Penny criticise ?

---

---

---

(15) How did Giles **feel** about the offer to go to Indonesia and **why**?

---

---

---

(16) Now that Penny is **back home**, identify **two** things that she is **enjoying** at the moment.

---

---

---



**PART TWO:****Reading Comprehension Text**

The move to Pagford had been the worst thing that had ever happened to Gaia Bawden. Excepting occasional visits to her father in Reading, London was all that she had ever known. So incredulous had Gaia been, when Kay had first said she wanted to move to a tiny West Country town, that it had been weeks before she took the threat seriously. She had thought it one of Kay's mad ideas, like the two chickens she had bought for their tiny back garden in Hackney (killed by a fox a week after purchase) or deciding to ruin half their saucepans and permanently scar her own hand by making marmalade, when she hardly ever cooked.

Wrenched from friends she had had from primary school, from the house she had known since she was eight, from weekends that were, increasingly, about every kind of urban fun, Gaia had been plunged, over the pleas, threats and protests, into a life she had never dreamed existed. Cobble streets and no shops open after six o'clock, a communal life that seemed to revolve around the church, and where you could often hear birdsong and nothing else: Gaia felt as though she had fallen through a portal into a land lost in time.

She and Kay had clung tightly to each other all Gaia's life (for her father had never lived with them, and Kay's two successive relationships had never been formalized), bickering, condoling and growing steadily more like flat-mates with passing years. Now, though, Gaia saw nothing but an enemy when she looked across the kitchen table. Her only ambition was to return to London, by any means possible, and to make Kay as unhappy as she could, in revenge. She could not decide whether it would punish Kay more to fail all her GCSEs<sup>1</sup>, or to pass them, and try and get her father to agree to house her, while she attended a sixth-form college in London. In the meantime, she had to exist in alien territory, where her looks and her accent, once instant passports to the most select social circles, had become foreign currency.

Gaia had no desire to become one of the popular students at Winterdown : she thought they were embarrassing, with their West Country accents and their pathetic ideas of what constituted entertainment. Her determined pursuit of Sukhvinder Jawanda was, in part, a way of showing the in-crowd that she found them laughable, and partly because she was in a mood to feel kinship with anybody who seemed to have outsider status.

The fact that Sukhvinder had agreed to join Gaia as a waitress in a local café had moved their friendship to a different level. In their next period of double biology, Gaia unbent as she had never done before, and Sukhvinder glimpsed, at last, part of the mysterious reason why this beautiful, cool newcomer had selected her as a friend. Adjusting the focus on their shared microscope, Gaia muttered, 'It's so frigging white in here, isn't it?'

---

1 GCSE : General certificate of education ; state exams taken by students aged 16 in Britain.

Sukhvinder heard herself saying 'yeah' before she had fully considered the question. Gaia was still talking, but Sukhvinder was only half listening. 'So frigging white.' She supposed that it was.

At St Thomas's primary, Sukhvinder had been made to get up, the only brown person in the class, and talk about the Sikh religion. She had stood obediently at the front of the class and told the story of the Sikh religion's founder Guru Nanak, who disappeared into a river, and was believed drowned, but re-emerged after three days under water to announce: 'There is no Hindu, there is no Moslem.'

The other children had sniggered at the idea of anyone surviving underwater for three days. Sukhvinder had not had the courage to point out that Jesus had died and then come back to life. She had cut the story of Guru Nanak short, desperate to get back to her seat. She had only ever visited a gurdwara<sup>2</sup> a handful of times in her life; there were none in Pagford., and the one in Yarvil was tiny and dominated, according to her parents, by Chamars, a different caste from their own. Sukhvinder did not even know why that mattered, because she knew that Guru Nanak explicitly forbade caste distinctions. It was all very confusing, and she continued to enjoy Easter eggs and decorating the Christmas tree, and found the books that her mother Parminder pressed upon her children, explaining the lives of the gurus and the tenets of Khalsa, extremely difficult to read.

Adapted from *The Casual Vacancy* by J.K Rowling, 2012.



---

<sup>2</sup> A place of assembly and worship for Sikhs.

**PART TWO: Reading Comprehension Questions [20 pts]**

- Answer each of the following questions in about 60-80 words (approx. 7 lines) each.
  - Use your own words.
1. How does the move from London to Pagford affect Gaia's life ?
  2. "In the meantime, she had to exist in alien territory, where her looks and her accent, once instant passports to the most select social circles, had become foreign currency. "  
[l. 21 – 22].

Identify and explain the *two* metaphors in this quote linked to the idea that Gaia is in 'alien territory'.

3. What does Gaia *mean* when she comments that "'It's so frigging white in here, isn't it? '" and *why* say it to Sukhvinder? [l.32]
4. Explain the feelings Gaia's observation awakens in Sukhvinder?
5. What sort of challenges do you think children born of first-generation immigrants might face in their everyday lives?

- PLEASE USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER
- PLEASE LEAVE A MARGIN DOWN THE LEFT SIDE OF YOUR PAGE
- IF YOU QUOTE FROM THE TEXT, USE QUOTATION MARKS

**PART THREE : Translation****[20 pts]**

Quand vient le moment de se dire au revoir, la mère, vêtue du noir qu'elle porte depuis la mort de son père, dix-sept ans plus tôt, les embrasse comme si elle ne devait jamais plus les revoir. Que Dieu vous bénisse !

Elle a auparavant essayé de passer autour du cou de José une chaînette en or avec une croix, et José, gêné devant leur voisin Juan, l'a repoussée d'un geste brusque. Elle a dit à Montse de faire attention en traversant les rues ! Elle a rappelé à José de bien surveiller sa sœur ! Elle a conseillé à Rosita et à Montse de ne pas faire les folles. Puis elle est restée là, à faire des signes de la main, jusqu'à ce que le bus disparaisse derrière la dernière colline, comme s'il allait tomber dans un trou. Et au moment précis où le bus a disparu, la mère a éclaté en sanglots et a couru se cacher dans sa cuisine.

Montse a promis à sa mère de lui écrire dès qu'elle arriverait. Elle se sent paisible. Heureuse et paisible. Elle a le sentiment de partir en vacances malgré la guerre qui est dans tous les esprits. Mais plus la silhouette noire de sa mère diminue dans le lointain, plus cette pensée l'attriste : elle se dit que le père va l'accuser de les avoir laissés partir, et qu'il va lui faire mal inlassablement par des reproches ou quelques gifles, car la torturer soulage sa propre souffrance et détend son corps épuisé. Elle le voit clairement dans son esprit : la mère va se retrouver seule face au père dont elle a peur et ni José, ni elle, ne seront là pour s'interposer entre eux et être battus avec sa ceinture, un instrument que le père n'utilise pas seulement contre sa famille, mais contre tout ce qui l'épuise et l'opprime, et qu'il oublie un peu en les frappant.

Freely adapted from Lydia Salvayre's *Pas pleurer*

- PLEASE USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER
- PLEASE LEAVE A MARGIN DOWN THE LEFT SIDE OF YOUR PAGE