

## Epreuve écrite

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2012

Section: A

Branche: Anglais, textes connus

Numéro d'ordre du candidat

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### **PART A : Guided Comprehension (30 marks)**

Read this passage from *The Handmaid's Tale* and answer the questions below

The fact is that I'm his mistress. Men at the top have always had mistresses, why should things be any different now? The arrangements aren't quite the same, granted. The mistress used to be kept in a minor house or apartment of her own, and now they've amalgamated things. But underneath it's the same. More or less. *Outside woman* they used to be called, in some countries. I am the outside woman. It's my job to provide what is otherwise lacking. Even the Scrabble. It's an absurd as well as an ignominious position.

Sometimes I think she knows. Sometimes I think they're in collusion. I think she put him up to it, and is laughing at me; as I laugh from time to time and with irony, at myself. Let her take the weight, she can say to herself. Maybe she's withdrawn from him, almost completely, maybe that's her version of freedom.

But even so, and stupidly enough, I'm happier than I was before. It's something to do, for one thing. Something to fill the time, at night, instead of sitting alone in my room. It's something else to think about. I don't love the Commander or anything, but he's of interest to me, he occupies space, he is more than a shadow.

1. Briefly situate this passage. How does Offred regard her situation at that moment? In what ways do Janine and Moira react differently to this brave new world? (10 marks)
2. How does the narrator regard Serena Joy's position in the second paragraph? What do you think about her role in the household and in Gileadan society? (10 marks)
3. Serena Joy's version of freedom is referred to in this passage. What freedoms does this society offer its citizen, bearing in mind that Aunt Lydia said 'There is more than one kind of freedom. Freedom to and freedom from'. (10 marks)



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**PART B : Development Essay (30 marks)**

Answer ONE of these two questions on *Macbeth* .

*Your answer should be well-structured and contain between 300 and 400 words.*

*Please indicate the number of words.*

*Under no circumstances must you write a summary of the play.*

**Either**

1. *Analyse what the apparitions tell Macbeth about his future.  
What impact do these predictions have on him?  
How do they become true in the end?*

**Or**

2. *Why can the Sleepwalking Scene be regarded as one of the strongest moments of Shakespeare's tragedy?  
What does it reveal about Lady Macbeth's conscience and her strength of character?*

