



<b>ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE</b>	<b>Branche : Anglais – textes connus</b>
<b>Section(s) : A</b>	<b>N° d'ordre du candidat :</b>
<b>Date de l'épreuve : 26 mai 2016</b>	<b>Durée de l'épreuve : 150 minutes</b>

## **PART ONE: GUIDED COMPREHENSION (30 marks)**

**Read the following excerpt from *The Handmaid's Tale* and answer the questions below.**

The bath is a requirement, but it is also a luxury. Merely to lift off the heavy white wings and the veil, merely to feel my own hair again, with my hands, is a luxury. My hair is long now, untrimmed. Hair must be long but covered. Aunt Lydia said: Saint Paul said it's either that or a close shave. She laughed, that held-back neighing of hers, as if she'd told a joke.

Cora has run the bath. It steams like a bowl of soup. I take off the rest of my clothes, the overdress, the white shift and petticoat, the red stockings, the loose cotton pantaloons. [...]

My nakedness is strange to me already. My body seems outdated. Did I really wear bathing suits, at the beach? I did, without thought, among men, without caring that my legs, my arms, my thighs and back were on display, could be seen. *Shameful, immodest*. I avoid looking down at my body, not so much because it's shameful or immodest but because I don't want to see it. I don't want to look at something that determines me so completely.

I step into the water, lie down, let it hold me. The water is soft as hands. I close my eyes, and she's there with me, suddenly, without warning, it must be the smell of soap. I put my face against the soft hair at the back of her neck and breathe her in, baby powder and child's washed flesh and shampoo, with an undertone, the faint scent of urine. This is the age she is when I'm in the bath. She comes back to me at different ages. This is how I know she's not really a ghost. If she were a ghost she would be the same age always.

1. Describe the situation Offred finds herself in. (4)
2. Explain to what extent this excerpt is pointing out some of the ordeals of a Handmaid's life. (8)
3. Analyse the narrative style and technique used in the excerpt. (8)
4. Why are memories so important for Offred? (10)

## PART TWO: DEVELOPMENT ESSAY (30 marks)

### *Macbeth*

Write a structured and coherent essay on **one** of the following topics. Use between 300 and 400 words – quotations excluded – and indicate the number of words used. Support your arguments with quotes and precise references to the ~~novel~~ *play*.

1. 'Macbeth is a tyrant, but he never loses his noble qualities.' Discuss.
2. Is *Macbeth* a moral play? Is justice served at the end of the play? Defend your answer.