

Epreuve écrite

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2014

Section : A

Branche : Anglais, textes connus

Numéro d'ordre du candidat

I THE HANDMAID'S TALE

(30 marks)

He was no longer a thing to me. That was the problem. ...

Serena Joy has changed for me, too. Once I'd merely hated her, for her part in what was being done to me; and because she hated me too and resented my presence, and because she would be the one to raise my child, should I be able to have one after all. But now, although I still hated her, no more so than when she was gripping my hands so hard that her rings bit my flesh, pulling my hands back as well, which she must have done on purpose to make me as uncomfortable as she could, the hatred was no longer pure and simple. Partly I was jealous of her; but how could I be jealous of a woman so obviously dried-up and unhappy? You can only be jealous of someone who has something you think you ought to have yourself. Nevertheless I was jealous.

But I also felt guilty about her. I felt I was an intruder, in a territory that ought to have been hers. Now that I was seeing the Commander on the sly, if only to play games and listen to him talk, our functions were no longer as separate as they should have been in theory. I was taking something away from her, although she didn't know it. I was filching. Never mind that it was something she apparently didn't want or had no use for, had rejected even; still, it was hers, and if I took it away, this mysterious 'it' I couldn't quite define – for the Commander wasn't in love with me, I refused to believe he felt anything for me as extreme as that – what would be left for her?

(293 words)

1. Why has the Ceremony become such a different experience for both the Commander and Offred? *(10 marks)*
2. How does Offred feel about Serena Joy now? Explain. *(10 marks)*
3. Do you see Serena as a keen supporter of the regime or as a victim? *(10 marks)*

II MACBETH

(30 marks)

Choose either of the following topics. Your essay should have between 300 and 400 words (quotations excluded). Please indicate the number of words you have used!

'Something wicked this way comes...' Is this a fair description of Macbeth?

Or:

Ultimately, 'Macbeth' is a play about kingship. Discuss.