EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES – Sessions 2024 QUESTIONNAIRE Date: 07.06.24 Horaire: 14:15 - 16:45 Durée: 150 minutes CA / CA-LLCO / CA-MALA / CA-MALF / CA-MAT / ANGLA écrit Discipline: Type: Section(s): CA-MATT / CA-PSYA / CA-PSYF TXCON Numéro du candidat :

PART ONE: Guided Comprehension (30 marks)

The Handmaid's Tale

5

Read the following excerpt and answer the questions below.

1 Now we turn our backs on the church and there is the thing we've in truth come to see: the Wall.

The Wall is hundreds of years old too; or over a hundred, at least. Like the sidewalks, it's red brick, and must once have been plain but handsome. Now the gates have sentries and there are ugly new floodlights mounted on metal posts above it, and barbed wire along the bottom and broken glass set in concrete along the top.

No one goes through those gates willingly. The precautions are for those trying to get out, though to make it even as far as the Wall, from the inside, past the electronic alarm system, would be next to impossible.

Beside the main gateway there are six more bodies hanging, by the necks, their hands tied in front of them, their heads in white bags tipped sideways onto their shoulders. There must have been a Men's Salvaging early this morning. I didn't hear the bells. Perhaps I've become used to them.

We stop, together as if on signal, and stand and look at the bodies. It doesn't matter if we look.

We're supposed to look: this is what they are there for, hanging on the Wall. Sometimes they'll be there for days, until there's a new batch, so as many people as possible will have the chance to see them.

(...)

It's the bags over the heads that are the worst, worse than the faces themselves would be. It makes the men look like dolls on which faces have not yet been painted; like scarecrows, which in a way is what they are, since they are meant to scare. (...) The heads are zeros.

(283 words)

- 1. Situate the extract. (4 marks)
- 2. How is the Wall described? (6 marks)
- 2. Explain the practice of 'Salvaging' by drawing on other moments in the novel. (10 marks)
- 3. Analyse the imagery used to describe the bodies. (10 marks)

PART TWO: Development Essay (30 marks)

Write a well-structured essay of 300-400 words on ONE of the following topics. Indicate the number of words used. (Do not include quotations in your word count.)

'Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
 And then is heard no more. It is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury
 Signifying nothing.'

Analyse Macbeth's shift from ambition to nihilism. What causes him to change? (Nihilism: the view that existence is senseless and useless)

OR

2. 'Macbeth's most tragic victim is his own wife, Lady Macbeth.' Do you agree?