



BRANCHE	SECTION	ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE
Anglais Textes connus	A	Durée de l'épreuve : 150 minutes Date de l'épreuve : 4 juin 2019

PART ONE: Guided Comprehension (30 marks)

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

The Commander has on his black uniform, in which he looks like a museum guard. A semi-retired man, genial but wary, killing time. But only at first glance. After that he looks like a midwestern bank president, with his straight neatly brushed silver hair, his sober posture, shoulders a little stooped. And after that there is his moustache, silver also, and after that his chin, which really you can't miss. When you get down as far as the chin he looks like a vodka ad, in a glossy magazine, of times gone by.

His manner is mild, his hands large, with thick fingers and acquisitive thumbs, his blue eyes uncommunicative, falsely innocuous. He looks us over as if taking inventory. One kneeling woman in red, one seated woman in blue, two in green, standing, a solitary man, thin-faced, in the background. He manages to appear puzzled, as if he can't quite remember how we all got in here. As if we are something he inherited, like a Victorian pump organ, and he hasn't figured out what to do with us. What we are worth.

He nods, in the general direction of Serena Joy, who does not make a sound. [...] He inserts the key, opens the box, lifts out the Bible, an ordinary copy, with a black cover and gold-edged pages. The Bible is kept locked up, the way people once kept tea locked up, so the servants wouldn't steal it. It is an incendiary device: who knows what we'd make of it, if we ever got our hands on it? We can be read to from it, by him, but we cannot read. Our heads turn towards him, we are expectant, here comes our bedtime story.

(287 words)

1. Situate the excerpt within its context. (4 marks)
2. Analyse the narrator's description of the Commander here. In what way does or does it not fit his true character? (8 marks)
3. Comment on the different postures of the various household members in this extract and explain how they reflect their respective roles in Gilead. (10 marks)
4. Discuss the overall tone of the passage and comment on the language used. (8 marks)

PART TWO: Development essay on William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* (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. Support your arguments with quotes and precise references to the play.

1. "Violence begets violence." (Gospel of Matthew, verse 26:52)

Analyse how Macbeth's unnatural deed perpetuates violence until he himself becomes its victim.

2. Discuss the role of the supernatural that permeates the play.