



BRANCHE	SECTION(S)	ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE
Anglais : textes connus	A	Durée de l'épreuve : 150 minutes Date de l'épreuve : 01/06/21

PART ONE: Guided Comprehension (30 marks)

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

I have a little present for you, he said.

He smiled a little. Then he pulled open the top drawer of his desk and took something out. He held it a moment, casually enough, between thumb and finger, as if deciding whether or not to give it to me. Although it was upside-down from where I was sitting, I recognized it. They were once common enough. It was a magazine, a women's magazine it looked like from the picture, a model on glossy paper, hair blown, neck scarfed, mouth lipsticked; the fall fashions. I thought such magazines had all been destroyed, but here was one, left over, in a Commander's private study, where you'd least expect to find such a thing. He looked down at the model who was right-side-up to him; he was still smiling, that wistful smile of his. It was a look you'd give to an almost extinct animal, at the zoo.

Staring at the magazine, as he dangled it before me like fish bait, I wanted it. I wanted it with a force that made the ends of my fingers ache. At the same time I saw this longing of mine as trivial and absurd, because I'd taken such magazines lightly enough once. I'd read them in dentist's offices, and sometimes on planes; I'd bought them to take to hotel rooms, a device to fill in empty time while I was waiting for Luke. After I'd leafed through them I would throw them away, for they were infinitely discardable, and a day or two later I wouldn't be able to remember what had been in them.

Though I remembered now. What was in them was promise.

(280 words)

1. Analyse the Commander's actions in the above excerpt closely and show how they underline his position in his relationship with Offred. (10 m)
2. What were Offred's conflicting feelings at the sight of the glossy magazine and how can these feelings be explained? (8 m)
3. What does Offred mean when she describes the Commander's look at the model in the magazine as "a look you'd give to an almost extinct animal, at the zoo"? (4 m)
4. Show how this scene is only one among many others in the novel that underline the strict separation of gender roles in the patriarchal society that Gilead is. (8 m)

PART TWO: Development essay (30 marks)

Write a well-structured and coherent essay of between 300 and 400 words on **one** of the following topics. Indicate the number of words used.

(Do not include quotations in your word count.)

- A. Lady Macbeth is as guilty of the crimes committed as her husband is. Discuss.
- B. Shakespeare presents us with some honourable characters in order to bring relief to an atmosphere that would otherwise drown in utter despair. Do you agree?
- C. *Macbeth* is set in a world dominated by cruelty and barbarity. There is no room for love in a world like this. Discuss.