



BRANCHE	SECTION(S)	ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE
Anglais (texte inconnu)	A	Durée de l'épreuve : 150 minutes Date de l'épreuve : 18/05/21

*LETTER TO SOMEONE LIVING FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW*

by Matthew Olzmann

- 1 Most likely, you think we hated the elephant,  
the golden toad, the thylacine and all variations  
of whale harpooned or hacked into extinction.
- 5 It must seem like we sought to leave you nothing  
but benzene, mercury, the stomachs  
of seagulls rippled with jet fuel and plastic.
- You probably doubt that we were capable of joy,  
but I assure you we were.
- 10 We still had the night sky back then,  
and like our ancestors, we admired  
its illuminated doodles  
of scorpion outlines and upside-down ladles.
- Absolutely, there were some forests left!  
Absolutely, we still had some lakes!
- 15 I'm saying, it wasn't all lead paint and sulfur dioxide.  
There were bees back then, and they pollinated  
a euphoria of flowers so we might  
contemplate the great mysteries and finally ask,  
"Hey guys, what's transcendence?"
- 20 And then all the bees were dead.

*Note on the poet: Matthew Olzmann is a contemporary American poet born in Detroit, Michigan. He currently teaches at Dartmouth College, and the MFA program at Warren Wilson College.*

**Glossary:**

the thylacine	=	the native Tasmanian wolf or 'zebra-wolf'
doodles	=	patterns that you draw casually onto something when you are bored or thinking of other things
a ladle	=	a large deep spoon with a handle, used for serving soup
transcendence	=	( <i>here</i> ) the word is meant to suggest an interest in existential questions

**Analysis**

*Read all the questions before you start writing. Avoid any unnecessary overlaps or repetitions.*

1. What could be the purpose of this "letter"? (5 m)
2. According to the poet's vision, what will the world be like in fifty years' time? (10 m)
3. What are future generations likely to think of present-day mankind? (10 m)
4. How does the poet manage to convey this huge sense of loss? (10 m)
5. Analyse the poet's use of language and his use of poetical devices to create strong effects. (10 m)
6. Opinion: (15 m)

How valuable could the contribution of art become in the fight against climate change?