

English Department

BACCALAUREATE 2015

FINAL EXAMINATION (3 HOURS)

PART ONE : Listening

[20 pts]

You will hear a radio programme in which a radio presenter talks about environmental protest groups.

- For questions **1-10**, complete the sentences using between **1-3** words. (On this sheet)
- For questions **11-15**, answer **with a short sentence**.
- You will hear the programme **twice**. You **now** have **four** minutes to read through the questions.

Questions 1-10 [one point each] :

Reading much like quotes on an _____ (1) poster, today's global environmental disasters include disappearing Amazonian forests as well as melting ice-caps and _____ (2) in the polar regions. Of course, the human race is to blame, yet it is felt that the governments around the world are not dealing with these problems as they should. In response, protest groups aim to _____ (3) of these issues, demanding politicians to act swiftly. Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace have become _____ (4) names, but Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) and Reclaim The Streets (RTS) are less famous.

In 1990, the creators of SAS felt that water sports enthusiasts were facing unacceptable _____ (5) when using beaches in Cornwall in the UK. Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) started attracting people's attention to the problem by going to public events with their surfboards, where they handed out leaflets whilst wearing wetsuits and gas masks. Thanks to media attention, SAS were able to pressurise the British government into abolishing the dumping of _____ (6) into the sea, rivers and lakes.

In 1991, Reclaim The Streets (RTS) started campaigning against cars, roads and the system that pushes them. RTS started action by demanding the banning of road construction going through _____ (7) of the British countryside. Protesters organise street parties, set up playgrounds, decorate the streets and _____ (8) refreshments to passers-by. This carnival is normally _____ (9) by the police after a short while.

The methods RTS use have become popular all around the world. Information about other _____ (10) groups can be found using links on the SAS and RTS websites.

Questions 11-15 [two points each] :

(11) Why are Superman and James Bond mentioned in connection with the world's environmental disasters?

(12) What was SAS's concrete effect in the UK at the end of last century?

(13) Why wasn't the SAS logo used in an American movie, which could have brought some fame to the movement?

(14) Why do RTS say they are a "disorganization" rather than an organization?

(15) In what way does the internet have an impact on the protest groups?



PART TWO : Reading comprehension

[20 pts]

The narrator left Swamp Creek, Arkansas, when he was eighteen, vowing never to return. Ten years later, after completing a Ph.D. in black studies in New York, he feels compelled to go back to his hometown. On his arrival, he hears that Ms Swinton, his former schoolmistress, is dying.

I wondered how old Ms Swinton was. She'd have to be at least seventy, since she had taught in Swamp Creek as long as anyone could remember. She was the only glimpse most of us got of culture, protocol, and class. Momma said that Ms Swinton was full of herself and ought to come back down. "Down to what?" I wondered. She dressed nice and her language was impeccable. That's probably why Momma couldn't stand her, "walkin' round tryin' to talk like white folks." Ms Swinton was my idol, and I loved everything about her. She taught me things and exposed me to ideas, which have stayed with me a lifetime. I never will forget the day she told me to stay after school. I thought I was in trouble. I didn't remember anything I had done, but any time Ms Swinton kept a student after school, everybody knew he was in trouble.

Once the other children left, she told me to bring a chair and place it next to her desk. I was both disquieted and anxious. "What did I do, Ms Swinton?" I asked very softly, about to cry.

"You have done nothing wrong, Thomas Lee," Ms Swinton pampered me kindly. I had never heard her take a motherly tone with any of us kids. I felt warm. "I asked you to stay because I have something for you."

Ms Swinton went to her desk drawer and pulled out a brand-new book. I began to sweat.

"I know how much you like to read, and I see how hard you work. Take this book, read it, and keep it for yourself. Don't tell anyone you have it. It's our secret. In fact, why don't we start reading it together, if you have time?"

"Sure", I said, grinning like a Cheshire cat. I knew I didn't have time because Daddy was in the field waiting on me. He'd simply have to wait, I decided. I might get a whoopin', but this was worth it.

The book had a shiny, bright green cover. This was the first brand-new book I had ever seen. All our books at school were used ones the white school had thrown away, and this new book belonged to me!

"This is your birthday present, Thomas," Ms Swinton declared as I pulled my chair next to hers. I knew she was lying. She never gave anyone birthday presents because she didn't bother herself with such trivialities. My fifteenth birthday simply offered her the opportunity to give me the book without showing favoritism.

"I think you'll enjoy this book a lot," Ms Swinton concluded as she handed it to me and asked me to start reading aloud. The book was titled *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. I liked the title because it reminded me of the song we sang at church during Christmastime.

"Yes, this is the story of a young man, much like you, who has some difficulties in his life that he must overcome."

"Is he black?" I asked excitedly.

"Yes, he is black, and the other characters are, too."

I dropped the book from sheer excitement.

"You must take good care of this book, son. New books are hard to come by in Swamp Creek."

"I'll take care of it, Ms Swinton. I promise!"

I began to read. Every word was like medicine for my wounded spirit. I would read a page and Ms Swinton would read a page. We read for about an hour until she suggested I go home before my folks came after me.

"Finish the book whenever you get a chance. The sooner the better, for then you won't forget what we've already read."

"I will, Ms Swinton, I will!"

In my excitement, I jumped up from the chair and hugged her tightly. I released her abruptly, however, when I realized I had invaded her personal space. No one ever hugged Ms Swinton. She just wasn't the touchy-feely type. Yet, much to my surprise, she giggled and hugged me in return.

"Get on out of here, boy," she said playfully, and tapped me on my behind. If I could have married her at that moment, I would have.

I stayed up all night and finished the book. John, the main character, and I had similar lives. His daddy beat him just like mine beat me. "Why are black daddies mean?" I wondered aloud to myself.

Concerning our mothers, however, our lives were very different. John had a momma who loved him. She hugged him and told him he was special. He had an auntie, too, who gave him some relief from his daddy. What troubled me most, though, was how his daddy claimed to love God passionately yet treated John like dirt.

I woke up the next morning too tired to hold my eyes open. "I tole you to take yo' black ass to bed, boy," I remembered Daddy threatening. And I wished I had, but I couldn't stop reading. The stuff in the book about church, God, singing, and hypocrisy made me realize I wasn't alone in my confusion.

Daniel BLACK, *They Tell Me of a Home*, 2005

Answer the following questions in 60 to 80 words, using your own words. When quoting from the text, use inverted commas. Quotes are not to be counted in the number of words.

1. Comment on this sentence in line 2 : *She was the only glimpse most of us got of culture, protocol, and class.*
2. Explain how and why Thomas's feelings change throughout the text in Ms Swinton's company.
3. In lines 27-28, Ms Swinton suggests that Thomas has "some difficulties in his life that he must overcome". How successfully do you think the reading of the book helps Thomas do this?
4. At a further stage in the story, the narrator finds out that Ms Swinton is his real mother. How does this revelation cast a new light on certain aspects of the text? Mention a minimum of **two** passages.
5. On her deathbed, Ms Swinton asks Thomas to take her position as a schoolteacher in Swamp Creek. Imagine his answer to Ms Swinton, with arguments justifying his acceptance or refusal : " *Well, Ms Swinton, I...* "

PART THREE : Translation

[20 pts]

Plus Thomas approchait de Swamp Creek, plus il s'interrogeait sur les raisons qui l'avaient poussé à revenir – cela faisait maintenant 10 ans qu'il vivait ailleurs. Le long trajet en bus depuis New York l'avait épuisé, et il transpirait beaucoup à cause de la chaleur. Qu'espérait-il trouver dans cette petite ville rurale du Sud, où il avait grandi ?

Il savait que sa réapparition soudaine pouvait être dérangeante. Bien sûr, il se réjouissait de revoir sa sœur, avec laquelle il s'était toujours bien entendu, mais dont il n'avait pas eu de nouvelles depuis assez longtemps. Quant à sa mère, bien qu'elle n'ait jamais été très affectueuse (=gentille) avec lui, elle avait toujours compris et soutenu son goût pour la lecture, dont elle était fière. En revanche, il avait toujours eu peur de son père, un homme travailleur, mais colérique et insensible, dont la seule obligation avait été de nourrir ses enfants. Thomas se rappelait que le jour où son frère aîné était rentré à la maison après une fugue (=après une fuite) de quelques jours, le père lui avait simplement dit : « Tu ferais mieux d'aller te coucher ce soir au lieu de regarder la télévision ; demain, nous allons travailler aux champs. »

Pour se donner du courage, Thomas se dit qu'il était adulte à présent, et que cela ne servait à rien de se faire du souci au sujet d'une relation que les années avaient sûrement modifiée. On dit que le temps ne guérit pas les vieilles cicatrices ; mais il les rend plus supportables, n'est-ce pas?

D'après *They Tell Me of a Home*, Daniel BLACK, 2005

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FINAL EXAM : Key and assessment

PART ONE : Listening

- (1) epic Hollywood movie [small “h” is ok if the three words are there // ½ off per missing word]
- (2) increasing radiation (levels) [“s” forgotten is ok if the three words are there // ½ off per missing word]
- (3) raise awareness
- (4) household
- (5) health risks
- (6) untreated waste
- (7) unspoilt / unspoiled areas [“toxic” = ½]
- (8) give (out) (free)
- (7) unspoilt / unspoiled areas [“give” alone is ok]
- (9) broken up
- (10) like-minded [protest = ½, “like-minding” = ½]

General principle: ½ off for spelling mistakes // 1 pt off for wrong answers or answers that don't make sense]

(11) Superheroes can't save the world as they do in films because it's the humans who are responsible for these disasters and who will have to work together to solve them.

(12) In 1998, SAS persuaded the government to spend 8.5 billion on cleaning up the aquatic environment. [They pressurized the government into banning the dumping of untreated waste into the sea, rivers and lakes. => 1 pt Copied from the text on p.1!!]

(13) SAS refused permission because they were concerned about the environmental damage that making the film had caused to a tropical island in Thailand.

(14) RTS have no clear aims and there is no one in charge. *Another possible answer* : Their methods have caught on and spontaneous protest events often happen without RTS hearing about them until afterwards.

(15) The Internet enables more and more people to express their dissatisfaction with the status quo and therefore, to collaborate on projects to solve the environmental problems that the modern world faces.

