

Lycée Melkior-Garré

EXAMEN D'ENTREE – MAI 2017

SECTION INTERNATIONALE

ANGLAIS

Durée de l'épreuve : 2 heures

L'usage des dictionnaires et des calculatrices électroniques est interdit.

COMPREHENSION DE L'ECRIT	10 POINTS
EXPRESSION ECRITE	10 POINTS

The massage and the message

“All I can say is, you’ve come to the right place, Samantha. Our aim here is to destress, revitalize, and detoxify.”

“Lovely,” I say, only half listening. I’ve just remembered that I never got back to David Elldridge about the Ukrainian oil contract. I meant to call

5 him yesterday. Shit.

“Our aim is to provide a haven of tranquility, away from all your day-to-day worries.” Maya presses another button in the wall, and the light dims to a muted glow¹. “Before we start,” she says softly, “do you have any questions?”

“Actually, I do.” I lean forward.

10 “Good!” She beams². “Are you curious about today’s treatments, or is it something more general?”

“Could I possibly send a quick e-mail?”

Maya’s smile freezes on her face.

“Just quickly,” I add. “It won’t take two secs -”

15 “Samantha, Samantha...” Maya shakes her head. “You’re here to relax. To take a moment for yourself. Not to send e-mails. E-mail’s an obsession! An addiction³! As evil as alcohol. Or caffeine.”

For goodness sake, I’m not obsessed. I mean, that’s ridiculous. I check my e-mails about once every... thirty seconds, maybe.

20 The thing is, a lot can change in thirty seconds.

“And besides, Samantha,” Maya goes on. “Do you see a computer in this room?”

“No,” I reply, obediently looking around the dim little room, at posters of yoga positions and a wind chime⁴ and a row of crystals arranged on the windowsill⁵.

25 “This is why we ask that you leave all electronic equipment in the safe⁶. No mobile phones are permitted. No little computers.” Maya spreads⁷ her arms. “This is a retreat. An escape from the world.”

“Right.” I nod meekly⁸.

Now is probably not the time to reveal that I have a BlackBerry⁹ hidden

30 in my paper knickers¹⁰.

“So, let’s begin.” Maya smiles. “Lie down, please, under a towel¹¹. And remove your watch.”

“I need my watch!”

“Another addiction.” She tsks reprovngly. “You don’t need to know the

35 time while you’re here.”

She turns away, and with reluctance I take off my watch. Then, a little awkwardly¹², I arrange myself on the massage table, trying to avoid squashing my precious BlackBerry.

I did see the rule about no electronic equipment. And I did surrender

40 my Dictaphone. But three hours without a BlackBerry? I mean, what if something came up at the office? What if there was an emergency?

If they really wanted people to relax, they would let them keep their Black-Berrys and mobile phones, not confiscate them.

Anyway, she’ll never see it under my towel.

45 “I’m going to begin with a relaxing foot rub¹³,” says Maya, and I feel her

smoothing some kind of lotion over my feet.

"Try to clear your mind."

I stare dutifully up at the ceiling. Clear mind. My mind is as clear as a transparent... glass...

50 What am I going to do about Elldridge? He'll be waiting for a response. What if he tells the other partners I was lax¹⁴? [...]

Maybe I could send him a very quick e-mail.

55 Surreptitiously I reach down and feel the hard corner of my BlackBerry. Gradually I inch it out of my paper knickers. Maya is still massaging my feet, totally oblivious.

"Your body is growing heavy... your mind should be emptying..."

60 I edge the BlackBerry up onto my chest until I can just see the screen underneath the towel. Thank goodness this room is so dim. Trying to keep my movements to a minimum, I furtively start typing an e-mail with one hand.

65 "Relaax..." Maya is saying in soothing tones. "Imagine you're walking along a beach..."

"Uh-huh..." I murmur.

David, I'm typing. Re ZFN Oil contract. I read through amendments. Feel our response should be...

70 "What are you doing?" says Maya, suddenly alert.

"Nothing!" I say, hastily shoving¹⁵ the BlackBerry back under the towel.

"Just... er... relaxing."

Maya comes round the couch and looks at the bump¹⁶ in the towel where I'm clutching the BlackBerry.

75 "Are you hiding something?" she says in disbelief.

"No!"

From under the towel the BlackBerry emits a little bleep.

Damn.

"I think that was a car," I say, trying to sound casual. "Outside in the street."

80 Maya's eyes narrow.

"Samantha," she says ominously. "Do you have a piece of electronic equipment under there?"

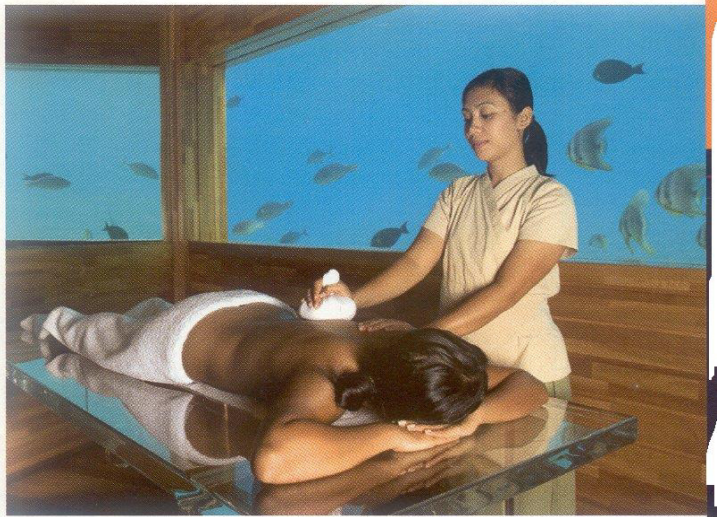
I have the feeling that if I don't confess she'll rip my towel off anyway.

"I was just sending an e-mail," I say at last, and sheepishly¹⁷ produce the

85 BlackBerry.

"You workaholics!" She grabs it out of my hand in exasperation. "E-mails can wait. It can all wait. You just don't know how to relax!"

"I'm not a workaholic!" I retort indignantly. "I'm a lawyer! It's different!"



READING COMPREHENSION

1. Explain where the scene takes place and who the two characters are.
2. What is Maya's goal? Explain and justify with two quotes from the text.
3. What is Samantha's problem? Explain and justify with two quotes from the text.
4. How does Maya react in the beginning to Samantha's question? Write the correct answer.
_____ *a chilly reaction* _____ *she is indifferent* _____ *she gladly answers*
5. Does Samantha feel comfortable? Justify with a quote from the text.
6. What is Samantha hiding and why?
7. Who is the reader supposed to side with? Explain why.

WRITTEN EXPRESSION

Samantha was offered this "beauty therapy" by her friend Freya. Now she writes to her about her experience with Maya. Write the letter. (150 words)