

# Test d'entrée en Section Internationale Américaine

académie  
Guayane

18 mai 2016

MINISTÈRE DE  
L'ÉDUCATION NATIONALE,  
DE LA JEUNESSE  
ET DE LA VIE ASSOCIATIVE

MINISTÈRE DE  
L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR  
ET DE LA RECHERCHE

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Durée : 2 heures

Aucun document, dictionnaire ou media autorisé

**Vous répondrez aux questions sur une feuille libre, que vous remettrez avec le sujet en fin d'épreuve**

**NOM du candidat :**

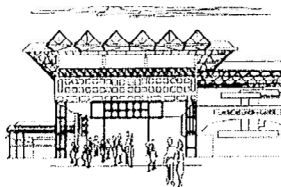
**Prénom :**

**Collège :**

**Note : Comprehension** /20

**Expression** /20

**Total** /40



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## The assistant

*Andrea, the narrator, is a personal assistant to Miranda Priestly, editor of a famous American fashion magazine. They are on a business trip to Paris and Andrea's mobile phone has just rung.*

« Andy, hi honey. Just wanted to give you a quick update. »

« OK. » I was trying to say the bare minimum, since it seemed incredibly strange to be talking on the phone in front of Miranda.

« The doctor just called and said that Lily is showing signs that indicate she may come out of it soon. Isn't that great ? I thought you'd want to know. »

« That's great. Definitely great ? »

« Have you decided if you're coming home or not ? »

« Um, no, I haven't decided. Miranda's having a party tomorrow night and she definitely needs my help, so... Listen, Dad, I'm sorry, but now's not a great time. Can I call you back ? »

« Sure, call anytime. » He tried to sound neutral, but I could hear the disappointment in his voice.

« Who was that ? » Miranda asked. (...)

« Humm ? Oh, that was my father. From America. »

« And what did he want you to do that conflicted with your working at the party tomorrow night ? » (...)

« Oh, it was nothing. A friend of mine was in an accident. She's in the hospital. In a coma, actually. And he was just calling to tell me how she was doing and to see if I was coming home. »

She considered this, nodding slowly. « I see. » No « I'm sorry », or « Is your friend OK ? », just an icy, vague statement and a look of extreme displeasure.

« But I'm not. I'm definitely not going home. I understand how important it is that I'm at the party tomorrow, and I'll be there. I've thought a lot about it, and I want you to know that I plan to honor the commitment I've made to you and to my job, so I'll be staying. »

At first Miranda said nothing. But then she smiled slightly and said, « Ahn-dre-ah, I'm very pleased with your decision. It is absolutely the right thing to do, and I appreciate that you recognize that. (...) I'll be much more willing to help you get where you'd like to go now that you've demonstrated that you're committed. You should be proud of yourself, Ahn-dre-ah. (...) You remind me of myself when I was your age. »

The driver screeched to a halt in front of the Carroussel du Louvre and leapt out to open the doors. I grabbed my bag and hers as well and wondered if it was the proudest or the most humiliating moment of my life.

Lauren Weisberger, *The Devil Wears Prada* (2003)

### Vocabulary :

1. Give sb an update : tenir qqn au courant
2. to nod : hocher la tête
3. statement : (ici) formule
4. commitment : engagement
5. to be willing : être disposé
6. screech to a halt : s'arrêter dans un crissement
7. to grab : saisir

## I. COMPREHENSION

/20

1. Who are the main characters ? (Give their names and jobs whenever possible) (3 points)
2. In what country does the story take place ? (1 point)
3. Who is calling the narrator ? (1 point)
4. Name the narrator's friend and say what happened to her. (1 point)

Read from the beginning to l. 20

5. How does the narrator react to the call ? (Choose one sentence and justify by quoting from the text) (1 point)
  - a. She is delighted (*ravie*) and ask a lot of questions.
  - b. She doesn't want to talk too much in the presence of her boss.
  - c. She goes away because it is a private conversation.
  - d. She interrupts the caller (*correspondant*) brutally.
6. True or false ? Justify by quoting the text. (2 points)
  - a. The narrator plans to go back home as soon as possible.
  - b. the narrator feels that she has to stay with her boss.
7. How does the narrator feel in this part ? (choose one adjective) (1 point)
  - a. furious
  - b. uncomfortable
  - c. pleased
  - d. amused
  - e. hopeful

Read from l.21 to the end.

8. Quote one sentence showing that the narrator doesn't want to bother (*ennuyer*) her boss with her problems. (1 point)
9. When she learns what has happened to her assistant's friend, the narrator's boss is : (Choose two adjectives and justify by quoting a phrase from the text) (2 points)
  - a. sympathetic (*compatissante*)
  - b. sorry
  - c. indifferent
  - d. put out (*contrariée*)
  - e. scared
10. Why does the narrator decide to stay with her boss ? (choose one sentence) (1 point)
  - a. She feels that her job is more important than anything else.
  - b. She doesn't want to see her father because she doesn't like him.
  - c. She is afraid of not being paid if she leaves.
11. True or false ? (Justify by quoting the text.) (2 points)
  - a. The narrator's boss disapproves of her assistant's decision.
  - b. The narrator's boss was very ambitious when she was younger.
12. Why is the name of the narrator written « Ahn-dre-ah » when her boss talk to her ? (1 point)
13. Where does the whole text take place ? (Justify by quoting the text.) (1 point)
  - a. in a taxi
  - b. on a bus
  - c. in a hotel room
  - d. on a plane
14. How does the narrator feel at the end of the text ? (choose two adjectives) (2 points)
  - a. angry
  - b. ashamed
  - c. frightened
  - d. relieved (*soulagée*)
  - e. satisfied

## II. EXPRESSION

/20

Answer the following question. (120 words)

What was the most humiliating moment in your life ? Why ?