

CONCOURS GÉNÉRAL DES LYCÉES

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SESSION 2019

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**COMPOSITION EN LANGUE ANGLAISE**

(Classes de terminale toutes séries générales et technologiques)

Durée : 5 heures

*L'usage de tout dictionnaire est interdit*

**Consignes aux candidats**

- Ne pas utiliser d'encre claire
- N'utiliser ni colle, ni agrafe
- Numéroté chaque page en bas à droite (numéro de page / nombre total de pages)
- Sur chaque copie, renseigner l'en-tête + l'identification du concours :

Concours / Examen : CGL

Section/Spécialité/Série : ANGLA

Epreuve : 101

Matière : ANGL

Session : 2019

**Tournez la page S.V.P.**

*The scene takes place in Lord Darlington's mansion. The narrator is the head butler, Miss Kenton is the housekeeper.*

This was met by the loudest burst of approval yet, followed by warm and sustained applause. I could see Mr Lewis smiling at his wine glass and shaking his head wearily. It was just around this stage that I became aware of the first footman beside me, who whispered: 'Miss Kenton would like a word with you, sir. She's just outside the door.'

5 I made my exit as discreetly as possible just as his lordship, still on his feet, was embarking on a further point.

Miss Kenton looked rather upset. 'Your father has become very ill, Mr Stevens,' she said. 'I've called for Dr Meredith, but I understand he may be a little delayed.'

10 I must have looked a little confused, for Miss Kenton then said: 'Mr Stevens, he really is in a poor state. You had better come and see him.'

'I only have a moment. The gentlemen are liable to retire to the smoking room at any moment.'

'Of course. But you must come now, Mr Stevens, or else you may deeply regret it later.'

15 Miss Kenton was already leading the way, and we hurried through the house up to my father's small attic room. Mrs Mortimer, the cook, was standing over my father's bed, still in her apron.

'Oh, Mr Stevens,' she said upon our entry, 'he's gone very poorly.'

20 Indeed, my father's face had gone a dull reddish colour, like no colour I had seen on a living being. I heard Miss Kenton say softly beside me: 'His pulse is very weak.' I gazed at my father for a moment, touched his forehead slightly, then withdrew my hand.

'In my opinion,' Mrs Mortimer said, 'he's suffered a stroke. I've seen two in my time and I think he's suffered a stroke.' With that, she began to cry. I noticed she reeked powerfully of fat and roast cooking. I turned away and said to Miss Kenton:

'This is most distressing. Nevertheless, I must now return downstairs.'

25 'Of course, Mr Stevens. I will tell you when the doctor arrives. Or else when there are any changes.'

'Thank you, Miss Kenton.'

30 I hurried down the stairs and was in time to see the gentlemen proceeding into the smoking room. The footmen looked relieved to see me, and I immediately signalled them to get to their positions.

35 Whatever had taken place in the banqueting hall after my departure, there was now a genuinely celebratory atmosphere amongst the guests. All around the smoking room, gentlemen seemed to be standing in clusters laughing and clapping each other on the shoulder. Mr Lewis, so far as I could ascertain, had already retired. I found myself making my way through the guests, a decanter of port upon my tray. I had just finished serving a glass to a gentleman when a voice behind me said: 'Ah, Stevens, you're interested in fish, you say.'

I turned to find the young Mr Cardinal beaming happily at me. I smiled also and said: 'Fish, sir?'

40 'When I was young, I used to keep all sorts of tropical fish in a tank. Quite a little aquarium it was. I say, Stevens, are you all right?'

I smiled again. 'Quite all right, thank you, sir.'

'As you so rightly pointed out, I really should come back here in the spring. Darlington Hall must be rather lovely then. The last time I was here, I think it was winter then too. I say, Stevens, are you sure you're all right there?'

45 'Perfectly all right, thank you, sir.'

'Not feeling unwell, are you?'

'Not at all, sir. Please excuse me.'

50 I proceeded to serve some port to some other of the guests. There was a loud burst of laughter behind me and I heard the Belgian clergyman explain: ‘That is really heretical! Positively heretical!’ then laugh loudly to himself. I felt something touch my elbow and turned to find Lord Darlington.

‘Stevens, are you all right?’

‘Yes, sir. Perfectly.’

‘You look as though you’re crying.’

55 I laughed and taking out a handkerchief, quickly wiped my face. ‘I’m very sorry, sir. The strains of a hard day.’

‘Yes, it’s been hard work.’

60 Someone addressed his lordship and he turned away to reply. I was about to continue further around the room when I caught sight of Miss Kenton through the open doorway, signalling to me. I began to make my way towards the doors, but before I could reach them, M. Dupont touched my arm.

‘Butler,’ he said, ‘I wonder if you could get me some fresh bandages. My feet are unbearable again.’

‘Yes, sir.’

65 As I proceeded towards the doors, I realized M. Dupont was following me. I turned and said: ‘I will come and find you, sir, just as soon as I have what is required.’

‘Please hurry, butler. I am in some pain.’

‘Yes, sir. I’m very sorry, sir.’

70 Miss Kenton was still standing out in the hall where I had first spotted her. As I emerged, she walked silently towards the staircase, a curious lack of urgency in her manner. Then she turned and said: ‘Mr Stevens, I’m very sorry. Your father passed away about four minutes ago.’

‘I see.’

She looked at her hands, then up at my face. ‘Mr Stevens, I’m very sorry,’ she said. Then she added: ‘I wish there was something I could say.’

75 ‘There’s no need, Miss Kenton.’

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, 1989.

## I. Questions

1. How is a sense of dramatic tension achieved in this scene?
2. Comment on focalization and (self-)perception in the passage.
3. Duty and propriety: study the codes at play here.
4. Using examples of your choosing, study how master-servant relationships have been depicted in English-speaking literature, cinema and/or theatre.

## II. Translation

Translate into French from “*This was met...*” (line 1) to “*still in her apron*” (line 16).

