



## LANGUES VIVANTES – ANGLAIS

### ÉVALUATION 2

#### Compréhension de l'écrit et expression écrite

L'ensemble du sujet porte sur l'axe 8 du programme : **Territoire et mémoire.**

Il s'organise en deux parties :

**1- Compréhension de l'écrit**

**2- Expression écrite**

Afin de respecter l'anonymat de votre copie, vous ne devez pas signer votre composition, citer votre nom, celui d'un camarade ou celui de votre établissement.

#### **Text**

*The scene is set in Australia at the start of the First World War.*

The war did come, in mid-August, but quietly, the echo of a shot that had been fired months back and had taken all this time to come round the world and reach them.

5 Jim happened to be in Brisbane to buy developing paper and dry plates<sup>1</sup> for Miss Harcourt and new boots for himself. By mid-afternoon the news had passed from mouth to mouth all over the city and newsboys were soon crying it at street corners. War! War! It was already several days old, over there, in countries to which they were not linked, and now it had come here.

10 Some people seemed elated<sup>2</sup>, others stunned. The man at the photography shop, who was some sort of foreigner with a drooping moustache and a bald skull and side-tufts, shook his head as he prepared Jim's parcel. 'A bad business,' he said, 'a catastrophe. Madness!'

Maybe, Jim thought, he had relatives there who would be involved.

'I'm a Swede,' the man told him, Jim didn't know why. He had never said anything like that before.

15 But others were filled with excitement.

'Imagine,' a girl with very bright eyes said to him at the saddlers where he got his boots. 'I reckon you'll be joining up.'

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<sup>1</sup> dry plate: photography material

<sup>2</sup> elated: joyful

'Why?' he asked in a last moment of innocence. It hadn't even occurred to him.

20 The girl's eyes hardened. 'Well I would,' she said fiercely, 'if I was a man. I'd want to be in it. It's an opportunity.' She spoke passionately, bitterly even, but whether at his inadequacy or her own he couldn't tell.

25 When he stepped out of the shop with his new boots creaking and the old ones in a box under his arm he saw that the streets were, in fact, filled with an odd electricity, as if, while he was inside, a quick storm had come up and equally swiftly passed, changing the sky and setting the pavements, the window-panes, the flanks of  
30 passing vehicles in a new and more vivid light. They might have entered a different day, and he wondered if there really had been a change of weather or he only saw the change now because that girl had planted some seed of excitement in him whose sudden blooming here in the open air cast its own reflection on things. He felt  
35 panicky. It was as if the ground before him, that had only minutes ago stretched away to a clear future, had suddenly tilted<sup>3</sup> in the direction of Europe, in the direction of *events*, and they were all now on a dangerous slope. That was the impression people gave him. That they were sliding. [...]

He went into the Lands Office Hotel for a quiet beer; it was where he usually went; it  
35 was the least rowdy of the Brisbane pubs.

He found it full of youths who would normally have been at work at this hour in government offices or insurance buildings or shops. They were shouting one another  
40 rounds, swaggering a little, swapping boasts, already a solid company or platoon, with a boldness that came from their suddenly being many; and all with their arms around one another's shoulders, hanging on against the slope.

David Malouf, *Fly Away, Peter*, 1982

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<sup>3</sup> tilt: *pencher*

## 1. Compréhension de l'écrit (10 points)

Give an account of the text **in English** and in your own words, taking into consideration;

- the nature of the text,
- the situation in which Jim, the main character, finds himself,
- the main event referred to and the different reactions of the characters to this event.

What does the sentence "It hadn't even occurred to him" (l. 18) reveal about Jim and how does it relate to his thoughts and impressions in the rest of the passage?

## 2. Expression écrite (10 points)

Vous traiterez, **en anglais** et en **120 mots au moins**, l'un des deux sujets suivants, **au choix**.

### Sujet A

Jim, the main character in the text, has a conversation with his parents in which he explains his decision to go to war or not. Write the dialogue.

### Sujet B

On a blog, you read three different quotes from people who react about war. Which one do you agree most? Why?

"Older men declare war. But it is the youth that must fight and die."

Herbert Hoover  
speaking to the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Republican National  
Convention, June 1944

"War is what happens when language fails."

Margaret Atwood, *The Robber Bride*, 1993

"Better to fight for something than live for nothing."

General Patton  
speaking to the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Army on the eve of the  
Normandy Invasion,  
June 5, 1944