



## LANGUES VIVANTES : ANGLAIS

### ÉVALUATION

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

L'ensemble du sujet porte sur l'axe 6 du programme : **Innovations scientifiques et responsabilité.**

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.

#### A Robot Called Hester

The robot was pleasant and nice-looking. The gold hair was quite enviable — although it was probably plastic. The skin — another kind of plastic — was distinguishable from real skin only by its perfection. Janet knelt down beside the box to touch the complexion. It was quite, quite cold. She sat back, looking at it. Just a big doll, she told herself; a contraption<sup>1</sup>, a very wonderful contraption of metal, plastics and electronic circuits, but still a contraption. And yet, you couldn't go on thinking about it as "it" anymore; whether you liked it or not, your mind thought of it as "her." It would have to have a name; and, with a name, it would become still more a person. "A battery-driven model", George read out, "will normally require a new battery every four days." He put his hands under the robot's shoulders, and tried to lift it.

"Phew!" he said. "Must be about three times my weight." He had another try. "Hell!" he said, and referred to the book again.

"The control switches are situated at the back, slightly above the waist." With an effort he succeeded in getting the figure on to its side and began to undo the buttons at the back of her dress. Janet suddenly felt that to be an indelicacy.

"I'll do it," she said. Her husband glanced at her.

"All right, it's yours," he told her.

"She can't be just 'it'? I'm going to call her Hester."

"All right," he agreed.

"I can't find a knob<sup>2</sup>," she said.

"Apparently there's a small panel that opens," he told her.

"Oh no!" she said, in a slightly shocked tone.

"Darling, she's just a robot, a mechanism."

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<sup>1</sup> contraption: a mechanical gadget or device

<sup>2</sup> knob: *bouton*

“I know,” said Janet. She felt again, discovered the panel, and opened it.  
25 “You give the knob a half-turn to the right and then close the panel to complete the circuit,” instructed George, from the book. Janet did so, and then sat back again, watching. The robot sat up, then it got to its feet.  
“Good day, madam,” it said. “Good day, sir. I shall be happy to serve you.”  
Hester was no ordinary robot. In four months she had become a friend. Janet had  
30 found it difficult to believe that she was only a mechanism, and as the days passed she had become more and more a person.  
“I suppose,” said Janet, that you must think me a poor, weak thing.”  
“Yes,” Hester said directly. But then she added: “I think all humans are poor, weak things. It is the way they are made.”  
35 “Compared with robots we must seem so, I suppose. You are so strong and untiring, Hester. If you knew how I envy you...”  
“We were designed: you were just accidental. It is your misfortune, not your fault.”

John Wyndham, *The Seeds of Time*, 1956

### 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 and its main theme, the situation described, the characters and their specificities. Focus especially on the evolution of the relationship between the two female characters.

### 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

It is 2020. You have just received the new Artificial Intelligence robot you have ordered. Write an e-mail to your sister or brother describing the robot and telling her or him how you feel about it.

#### Sujet B

Do you think it is risky to have robots to help us in our daily lives?