

## **ENTRY TEST**

MAY 2023

INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN SECTION

LYCEE ARGOUGES

GRENOBLE

### **PART I:** Reading comprehension (20 points)

Answer the questions on a separate exam booklet. (Excerpt from *Unaccustomed Earth*, by Jumpa Lahiri, 2008)

### **PART II:** Writing assignment (20 points)

Choose ONE subject. Write about 250 words. Use a separate exam booklet.

Parts I and II shall be completed in one hour and thirty minutes

### **PART III:** Oral Comprehension (20 points)

About 20 minutes; use a separate exam booklet) - Topic: News report about Chat GPT

At the restaurant his father pulled out the admissions packet for Langford, showing photographs of the campus, smiling students gathered around classroom tables, teachers standing in front of blackboards, caught midsentence by the camera's lens. Academically it was far superior to the school he'd been attending, his father told him, mentioning the percentage of Langford graduates who went on to Ivy League colleges<sup>1</sup>. Amit realized, as his father spoke, that his position in Delhi had been accepted, their house in Winchester already put up for sale. There was no question of his going to school in Delhi; it wasn't worth the trouble to adjust to education in a different country, his father said, given that eventually Amit would be attending an American college.

From Langford, during Christmas and after each academic year came to an end, Amit went to Delhi to be with his parents, staying in their flat full of servants in Chittaranjan Park, in a barren<sup>2</sup> room set aside for his stays. He never enjoyed his visits to Delhi, his broken Bengali<sup>3</sup> of no use in that city. It made him miss Calcutta, where all his relatives lived, where he was used to going. His parents had moved to Delhi the year of Indira Gandhi's assassination, and the riots that subsequently raged there, the curfews and the constant vigilance with which his parents had to live, meant that Amit remained cooped up inside, without friends, without anything to do. In that sense it was a relief to him to return to this peaceful town. Four years later his parents were back in America, moving to Houston. In Delhi his father had perfected a laser technique to correct astigmatism that earned him invitations to work and teach in hospitals all over the world. After five years in Houston they'd moved again, to Lausanne, Switzerland. They lived in Saudi Arabia now.

At Langford, Amit was the only Indian student, and people always assumed that he'd been born and raised in that country and not in Massachusetts. They complimented him on his accent, always telling him how good his English was. He'd arrived when he was fifteen, for sophomore year, which at Langford was called the fourth form, and by that time friendships and alliances among the boys of his class were already in place. At his high school in Winchester he'd been a star student, but suddenly he'd had to work doggedly to maintain his grades. He had to wear a jacket every morning to his classes and call his teachers "masters" and attend chapel on Sundays. Quickly he learned that his parents' wealth was laughable compared to the majority of Langford boys. There was no escape at the end of the day, and though he admitted it to no one, especially not his parents when they called from Delhi every weekend, he was crippled with homesickness, missing his parents to the point where tears often filled his eyes, in those first months, without warning. He sought traces of his parents' faces and voices among the people who surrounded and cared for him, but there was absolutely nothing, no one, at Langford to remind him of them. After that first semester **he had slipped as best as he could into this world**, swimming competitively, calling boys by their last names, always wearing khakis because jeans were not allowed. He learned to live without his mother and father, as everyone else did, shedding his daily dependence on them even though he was still a boy, and even to enjoy it. **Still he refused to forgive them.**

Jumpa Lahiri, *Unaccustomed Earth*, 2008

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<sup>1</sup>Ivy League Colleges: elite American Universities

<sup>2</sup>barren: empty

<sup>3</sup> Bengali: language spoken in the South of India

## Part 1: Written Comprehension – 20 pts

### Note to candidates:

- Keep your answers short.
- Write in complete sentences.
- Answer the questions in the order given.
- Indicate the number of the questions ex: 1.

1. Who is the main character? (1 pt)
2. In which country was he born? (1 pt)
3. Explain how the main character is connected to each of the following places: (3 pts)
  - a) Langford, USA
  - b) Winchester, USA
  - c) Delhi, India
4. What do we learn about his parents (origin, occupation, social status)? (3 pts)
5. What consequences did the father's job have on the life of his family? (2 pts)
6. Why had his parents chosen Langford for him? (2 pts)
7. How did Amit feel when he first got to Langford? Explain. (3 pts)
8. (ll. 31-32) "... he had slipped as best as he could into this world, ...". Explain the sentence in your own words. (2 pts)
9. (l. 34) "*Still, he refused to forgive them.*" Comment on the sentence and explain the character's feelings. (3 pts)

## Part 2: Written Expression – 20 pts

Choose **ONE** topic and write about 250 words.

1. At the end of the first semester at Langford, Amit writes a letter to his parents, pretending he is happy. (250 words)
2. Should parents interfere with their children's choices? (250 words)

### **PART III: Oral Comprehension (20 points)**

About 20 minutes; use a separate exam booklet - Topic: News report about Chat GPT

You are going to listen to a document that lasts about two minutes.  
Report in French OR in English what you understood in a coherent way.

**Procedure:**

You will listen to the whole document three times: a first time followed by a one-minute pause to let you take notes; then a second time also followed by a one-minute pause; and, finally, a third time followed by a ten-minute pause during which you must write your report.

**Format:**

You must present the document (type, how many people speak, in which setting, with what purpose ...).

Then you must report what you understood using paragraphs (one part in the document corresponding to one paragraph of your report).

Finally, you can comment on the tone or the attitude of the speaker(s).