

Maturité gymnasiale

2026

A N G L A I S

Examen écrit

(3 heures)



Baccalaureate 2026

OS English (3-hour exam)

PART ONE: Listening [20 pts]

Name: _____

You will hear an interviewer **(I)** interviewing two journalism students, called Mathew **(M)** and Tracy **(T)**, about fact and opinion in the news.

- For questions **1-12**, complete the sentences using between **2-4** words. **(1 point)**
- For questions **13-16**, answer shortly but precisely. **Please write full sentences. (2 points)**
- You will hear the interview **twice**. You now have **four** minutes to read through the questions.

- (I)** Matthew and Tracy, thank you for taking part in our series of discussions on journalism and the news. In particular, I'm interested in what you have to say about how news consumers, whether they watch TV or read newspapers, recognise if they're being presented with facts or a journalist's opinion. Matthew?
- (M)** That's a very good question and, actually, I think it's often hard for the average news consumer to know what's fact and what's opinion. As journalism students, we've spent quite a bit of our course, a whole module, on this area. In the first part of the module, we looked at how the news is changing - **(1)**, just quick headlines online, if you like. And, of course, increasingly, people use their phones while they're travelling or waiting for something, as a way to keep in touch with the news at any time. But, unless they know and understand what has **(2)** an event, telling fact from fiction in the news is a challenge for them (...)
- (I)** Now, I understand you put together a questionnaire to ask people if they were aware of when they were getting facts and when they were getting opinions from the news. Tell us about that, Tracy.
- (T)** Well, it was a very useful exercise because we had to really think about what we understood by the word fact ourselves first! Anyway, we **(3)** and tried it out on some other students on our course. (...)
- (I)** And I see your findings showed that most people were not that sure whether they were reading facts or opinions.
- (M)** No, so then we had to find an article that was a good example, I mean where it was clear whether it was giving facts or opinions. And, we read **(4)** before we found a really good one. I read one about the railways and even within one sentence there was a mixture of fact and opinion.
- (T)** Yes, it was puzzling, just like the one on class sizes. (...)
- (M)** (...) I loved the one about football, too, but it wasn't that well written.
- (T)** And, **(5)**, it actually said very little.
- (I)** So, what did you do next on your module?
- (M)** We had to write a factual article. I always **(6)** about doing that, I got some quite negative feedback from my tutor for the first one I wrote, even though my peers thought I'd researched it thoroughly. I'm getting better at it with each one I write, but still **(7)** concerned that I might not have checked everything carefully enough and there's some error somewhere. That can easily happen and OK, readers probably won't get hold of the wrong **(8)** because of that, but it's just not professional.

- (T) But can I just say something about photos and video?(...)
Video seems to be what (9)when there's a choice between the two. The extent to which news has visuals depends largely on the type of publication or (10)
- (I) Do you think there's more scope for developing your own style when you write opinion articles rather than factual ones?
- (M) Definitely, I love that. I'm quite a chatty sort of person and I like it when I can write an article that (11)I've had or even sometimes just overheard. The reason I admire the author Brenda McGovern is her ability to make conversation sound so real. I heard her speak recently at a book fair and (12) You can't always write in a chatty style, though, because if the subject's something quite serious, you have to adapt so that the language is appropriate.
- (I) Well, thank you both ...

PART ONE: Listening (cont.)

Comprehension questions 13 -16 (2 points each):

- (13) What advantage does **Matthew** mention about getting news on phones, and **why** is it beneficial? (Your answer here should not be taken from the exam text above!)
- (14) What difficulties did **Tracy** face when interviewing people, and **how** did she overcome them?
- (15) Which article did they **both** consider reliable, and **why**?
- (16) **What** has changed about the use of photos in articles, and **why**?

PART TWO:**Reading Comprehension Text****Double Face**

My daughter wanted to go to China for her second honeymoon, but now she is afraid.

“What if I blend in so well they think I’m one of them?” Waverly asked me. “What if they don’t let me come back to the United States?”

5 “When you go to China,” I told her, “you don’t even need to open your mouth. They already know you are an outsider.”

“What are you talking about?” she asked. **My daughter likes to speak back.** She likes to question what I say.

10 “Aii-ya,” I said. “Even if you put on their clothes, even if you take off your make-up and hide your fancy jewelry, they know. They know just watching the way you walk, the way you carry your face. They know you do not belong.”

15 My daughter did not look pleased when I told her this, that she didn’t look Chinese. She had a sour American look on her face. Oh, maybe ten years ago, she would have clapped her hands – hurray! – as if this were good news. But now she wants to be Chinese, it is so fashionable. And I know it is too late. All those years I tried to teach her! She followed my Chinese ways only until she learned how to walk out the door by herself and go to school. So now the only Chinese words she can say are *sh-sh, houche, chr fan and gwan deng shweijyau*. How can she talk to people in China with these words? Pee-pee, choo-choo train, eat, close light sleep. How can she think she can blend in? Only her skin and her hair are Chinese. Inside – she is all American-made.

20 I taught her how American circumstances work. If you are born poor here, it’s no lasting shame. You are first in line for a scholarship. If the roof crashes on your head, no need to cry over this bad luck. You can sue anybody, make the landlord fix it. You do not have to sit like a Buddha under a tree letting pigeons drop their dirty business on your head. You can buy an umbrella. Or go inside a Catholic church. In America, nobody says you have to keep the circumstances somebody else gives you.

25 She learned these things, but I couldn’t teach her about Chinese character. How to obey parents and listen to your mother’s mind. How not to show your own thoughts, to put your feelings behind your face so you can take advantage of hidden opportunities. Why easy things are not worth pursuing. How to know your own worth and polish it, never flashing it around like a cheap ring. Why Chinese thinking is best.

30 No, this kind of thinking didn’t stick to her. She was too busy chewing gum, blowing bubbles bigger than her cheeks. Only that kind of thinking stuck.

“Finish your coffee,” I told her yesterday. “Don’t throw your blessings away.”

“Don’t be so old-fashioned, Ma,” she told me, finishing her coffee down the sink. “I’m my own person.”

And I think, **How can she be her own person? When did I give her up?**

35 My daughter is getting married a second time. So she asked me to go to her beauty parlor, her famous Mr. Rory. I know her meaning. She is ashamed of my looks. What will her husband's parents and his important lawyer friends think of this backward old Chinese woman?

 "Auntie An-mei can cut me," I say.

 "Rory is famous," says my daughter, as if she had no ears. "He does fabulous work."

40 So I sit in Mr. Rory's chair. He pumps me up and down until I'm the right height. Then my daughter criticizes me as if I were not there. "See how it's flat on one side," she accuses my head. "She needs a cut and a perm. And this purple tint in her hair, she's been doing it at home. She's never had anything professionally done."

45 She is looking at Mr. Rory in the mirror. He is looking at me in the mirror. I have seen this professional look before. Americans don't really look at one another when talking. They talk to their reflections. They look at others or themselves only when they think nobody is watching. So they never see how they really look. They see themselves smiling without their mouth open, or turned to the side where they cannot see their faults.

*Passage taken from **The Joy Luck Club** by Amy Tan, (1989)*

PART TWO: Reading Comprehension Questions [20 pts]

- Answer each of the following questions in about 60-80 words (approx. 7 lines) each.
 - Use your own words.
 - For questions 1-4, use the text to support your answers.
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1. Using your own words, explain how the daughter embodies the idea of a 'Double face'.
 2. 'My daughter likes to speak back', line 6. Using evidence from the text, how does the daughter feel about her mother?
 3. Why does the mother ask the question 'How can she be her own person?' in line 34?
 4. Which elements / aspects of the text generate humour? Use the text to support your observations.
 5. Do we ever truly belong somewhere? Discuss.
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- PLEASE USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER
 - PLEASE LEAVE A MARGIN DOWN THE LEFT SIDE OF YOUR PAGE
 - IF YOU QUOTE FROM THE TEXT, USE QUOTATION MARKS

PART THREE : Translation**[20 pts]**

Puis elle commença à perdre ses cheveux. Elle leur appliqua donc régulièrement un après-shampooing coûteux. De plus, elle restait assise pendant des heures sous un traitement de vapeur, jusqu'à ce que des gouttes lui coulent dans le cou. Malgré tous ses efforts, ses cheveux disparaissaient petit à petit.

Son amie Wambui lui demanda quelles marques elle utilisait et si elles contenaient des produits chimiques. « Sais-tu ce qu'il y a dans un défrisant¹ ? C'est un truc qui pourrait te tuer. Il faut que tu te coupes les cheveux et les laisses naturels. »

Avoir des dreadlocks courtes comme Wambui était quelque chose qu'Ifemelu n'aurait jamais fait. Elle aurait préféré porter une perruque plutôt que permettre à un si joli visage d'être caché.

« On peut faire un tas de choses avec des cheveux naturels. De toute façon, modifier chimiquement tes cheveux c'est comme être en prison. Tu es en cage. Tes cheveux font la loi, ce qui est insupportable. Tu n'es pas allée courir avec Curt aujourd'hui car tu ne voulais pas que la sueur abîme tes cheveux lissés. Tu te bats toujours pour que tes cheveux fassent ce qu'ils ne sont pas censés faire. Tu ferais mieux de choisir la coiffure naturelle, ainsi tu n'auras plus à te soucier de rien. Je t'aurais aidée bien plus tôt si tu me l'avais demandé. Mais je sais que c'est un tel dilemme ! »

Wambui, dont l'attitude était si convaincante, se mit immédiatement au travail. Trente minutes plus tard, Ifemelu se regarda dans la glace. Elle n'était plus que de gros yeux et une immense tête. Au mieux, elle ressemblait à un garçon ; au pire, à un insecte.

Freely adapted from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie' *Americanah*

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¹ hair relaxer