

NOM & PRÉNOM DU CANDIDAT : \_\_\_\_\_

**TEST DE RECRUTEMENT SECTION INTERNATIONALE AUSTRALIENNE**

**NIVEAU : LYCÉE**



**SESSION : 2025**

**DURÉE : 2 HEURES**

**RAPPEL : AUCUN DOCUMENT OU DICTIONNAIRE AUTORISÉ**

**CE TEST ÉCRIT COMPREND DEUX SOUS-ÉPRUVES : UNE COMPRÉHENSION ÉCRITE ET UNE EXPRESSION ÉCRITE TOUTES DEUX ÉVALUÉES SUR 20 POINTS**

## PART 1: WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

Read the following text. Then, answer the questions directly on the exam paper.

At recess, I was called to Mrs Grey's office. I had not spoken to her since our "interview" almost a month before. Her office was as bare as when I had first seen it, and when I sat down, I had the curious feeling that I should have asked her for permission.

5 "So, Miss Lam. How are you finding your first day?"

"Fine," I replied.

"You know, you are our inaugural Equal Access student," she said. "That means you are the first one we have ever had."

"Yes, Mrs Grey," I answered.

10 "You are aware that Laurinda is making a big investment in you? In committing to fund your education for the next three years, we are gambling on an unknown quantity."

"Yes, Mrs Grey." And then, "Thank you, Mrs Grey."

"What does your father do?" she asked me point-blank.

15 I was appalled by the directness of her question – and by how much adults thought they could get away with when they were dealing with minors and there was no one else in the room.

"Dad works."

"Where?"

20 "At Victory."

"What's that?"

"A carpet factory."

"What about your mother? Home duties?"

I nodded. I didn't want to tell her about the sewing.

25 "Do you speak English at home?"

"No," I answered.

She gave me that smile again. "Now, Miss Lam, tell me what books you studied last year."

"*So Much to Tell You*."

30 She looked at me blankly.

"By John Marsden." Her brow furrowed. She'd clearly not heard of it and was not interested.

"What else?"

"*Romeo and Juliet*."

35 "What else?"

"*Stand by Me*. But that wasn't a book." I wasn't sure why I added this. "It was a film."

"Ah, yes, based on a Stephen King novel," remarked Mrs Grey [...].

"You are aware that at Laurinda we don't study movies?"

"Yes."

40 "And we don't study any books considered young adult literature. For instance, your John Marsden."

So she had heard of him.

45 "*Romeo and Juliet* is a play we study in our first year of high school. We consider it a good introduction to Shakespeare at the elementary level." She paused. "Now, I don't blame you for your school's choice of reading, but here at Laurinda we are a serious academic college, as evidenced by our English curriculum. We study the classics – Dickens, Austen, the poetry of Donne, Keats – as well as contemporary classics – Brecht, Graham Greene, Edith Wharton, Fitzgerald, Miles Franklin, Patrick White."

50 I nodded mutely. Aside from Dickens and Austen, I had no idea who these writers were.

“We think it is wise for you to participate in a bridging course.”

I wanted to protest, did you not read the reference that Mr Shipp gave me? Lucy Lam is one of our strongest English students. Her dramatic monologue from the perspective of Marina from *So Much to Tell You* was one of the most creative pieces of extended fiction in the class.

55 “Now, you realise that we are not picking on you,” she explained, in the way a doctor tells you that an anaesthetic is not going to hurt before the amputation. “In fact, Lucy, it was your English essay that gained you this scholarship in the first instance. It was outstanding. Many of the students who sat the exam, who appeared to have crammed for mathematics, neglected their writing. Many pieces were, I’m afraid to say, very poor. [...]

60 “Weren’t there some other good essays, though?” I asked, and immediately realised my mistake – that I was implying most of the essays were crap and mine was outstanding. Back at our old school this would have been taken as a simple question, a display of polite humility. Here it was a judgement, one I was not entitled to make.

65 “Fishing for compliments, are we, Miss Lam?” Mrs Grey asked, one eyebrow raised. Once more I realised that at Laurinda, you had to think very, very carefully every time you considered opening your mouth. “Of course there were. In fact, there was one other outstanding piece, the runner-up essay, about the founder of Amnesty International.”

70 “How come you didn’t pick her?” I asked. It was yet another mistake [...].

“We found her piece [...] too stilted. Her grammar was perfect, her writing was fluent and sophisticated, but there was just something off-kilter about it. Almost as if she’d memorised a speech.”

75 Here, you could not be mediocre, but you had to be well-balanced. Not too real, yet not too fake. [...]

“This is what will happen,” Mrs Grey continued. “You will take some remedial lessons to get you up to scratch, and then you will be transferred back to ordinary English.”

80 [...] How dare the school think I was not ready for Green and Fitzsimmons and whoever else when they’d given me a scholarship based on my essay writing? [...]

“You should feel very lucky,” instructed Mrs Grey. “I have arranged for you to have a one-on-one tutor twice a week. [...]”

85 [...] I wondered whether there was something about me that only Mrs Grey could see, something that, without intervention, would doom me to failure.

Alice Pung, *Laurinda*, 2014

**-Your answers should be as concise as possible**

**-When quoting, give the exact passage. Exaggeratedly long quotes will be considered improper.**

**-Answer all the comprehension questions on the assessment paper directly.**

**1- Where does the scene take place?**

**2- Say what or who the following names refer to:**

-Mrs Grey:

-Lucy Lam:

-Victory:

-John Marsden:

-Mr Shipp:

-Laurinda:

**3- Who are the characters present in the scene? How are they related?**

**4- Why is Lucy an unusual student for Mrs Grey?**

**5- What do Lucy's parents do for a living?**

**6- Does Mrs Grey approve of the works Lucy studied in her previous school? Justify your answer.**

**7- a- How does Lucy feel when Mrs Grey tells her she must participate in a bridging course?**

**b- Explain why she feels this way.**

**c- In your opinion, what is the purpose of this one-on-one bridging course?**

**8- Describe Lucy’s tone when she says “*she explained, in a way a doctor tells you that an anaesthetic is not going to hurt before amputation*” (l.57-58)**

**9- Indicate whether each statement is right or wrong. Support your answer with ONE quote from the text.**

a- Mrs Grey’s office did not contain much in the way of furniture or decorations.

right  wrong      quote:\_\_\_\_\_

b- Laurinda invested on Lucy’s studies because they are sure it is a good investment.

right  wrong      quote:\_\_\_\_\_

c- Lucy is very familiar with literary classics and knows many classic authors.

right  wrong      quote:\_\_\_\_\_

d- A lot of candidates for the Equal Access programme wrote impressive essays.

right  wrong      quote:\_\_\_\_\_

e- Lucy understands perfectly well why she has to take the remedial lessons.

right  wrong      quote:\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2: WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

**You will treat ONE subject only (on the paper provided).**

**1/ After her meeting with Mrs Grey, Lucy meets up with her best friend and recounts what happened. Write the scene showing Lucy’s feelings and the conversation between the two friends. (200 words minimum)**

**OR**

**2/ You are applying for a place at a prestigious and highly selective school. Write your application letter. (200 words)**

**OR**

**3/ Being accepted into a prestigious school can be both exciting and challenging. Write an essay about what opportunities you think such schools can offer. Reflect on what challenges come with this opportunity. (200 words minimum)**