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Ecole Normale Supérieure Enrolment Exam
Session: July 2009
Department: English
Exam: Literature
Duration : 4h
Coef : 3

Discuss one of the following topics in relation to literary works you know.

1. "A novel is in its broadest definition a personal, a direct impression of life: that, to begin with, constitutes its value, which is greater or less according to the intensity of the impression." Henry James in " The Art of Fiction", 1884.

2. " The tragic feeling is evoked in us when we are in the presence of a character who is ready to lay down his life, if need be, to secure one thing- his sense of personal dignity… the underlying struggle is that of the individual attempting to gain his "rightful" position in his society." Arthur Miller , *The New York Times*, 1949.

3. "One is always writing about two things at the same time in poetry and it is this that produces the tension characteristic of poetry. One is the true subject and the other is the poetry of the subject." Wallace Stevens, *Opus Posthumous*, 1957.

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ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE

Ecole Normale Supérieure Enrolment Exam
Session: July 2009
Department: English
Exam: Language
Duration : 3h
Coef : 2

PARTI: GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT (20 POINTS)

Fill in the blank. Write the number and the corresponding word on your answer sheer.

The government's equality watchdog, set (1)... to combat all forms of prejudice (2)... work, faces a sex discrimination lawsuit this week from a female member of its own staff.

The case is a fresh embarrassment for Trevor Phillips, (3)...chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, (4)... is widely expected to be forced to step down (5)... his contract ends in autumn following a string of internal disputes and allegations of financial irregularities. Several of his fellow commissioners (6)... indicated they are likely to stand down (7)... Phillips, who is close to several senior Labour politicians, including Lord Mandelson, is reappointed for another term.

The sex discrimination case brought by Brid Johal, an aide to Phillips's political adviser Faz Hakim, (8)...scheduled to be heard at an employment tribunal (9)... south London this week. (10)... is understood her case centres on allegations that she was not told of a promotion (11)... came up while she was (12)... maternity leave and was therefore unfairly treated compared (13)... other staff.

A spokesman for the commission declined to comment in advance of the tribunal case but another source said it was braced for public embarrassment.

Hakim is expected to give evidence on Johal's behalf and the case risks exposing broader questions about the recruitment policies adopted (14)... the commission, (15)... is supposed to police other private and public bodies in rooting out discrimination (16)... the grounds of sex, race, religion, sexuality, age and disability.

"There is something oddly old-fashioned going on in terms of plum jobs at the higher level," added the commission source.

Ministers (17)... due to announce later (18)... month whether Phillips (19)... serve a second term and the controversy over the commission's appointments (20)...staff management are thought to have counted against him.

PARTIII: READING COMPREHENSION (20 POINTS)

Read the text and answer the questions.

Obama heads to Russia to warm chilled ties

MOSCOW (AFP) – US President Barack Obama will visit Russia on Monday in the hope of reaching agreements on military transit and weapons reductions to revive a relationship that last year plunged to a post Cold War low.

Obama is to hold several hours of meetings with President Dmitry Medvedev but his shorter breakfast encounter with Vladimir Putin Tuesday could yet be chilly after he remarked that the prime minister remained stuck in the past.

Both sides have **vowed** to press the "reset button" after Russia's war with Georgia last year capped a series of diplomatic rows. But potential tensions still remain, most notably on missile defence.

"The summit will be billed as a success," said Dmitry Trenin, director of the Carnegie Centre in Moscow.

"The question is which way from the summit, whether the summit leads to a relationship that will gradually undo the real problems."

Russian officials have said Medvedev and Obama will sign a deal allowing the United States to transport military supplies for operations in Afghanistan across Russian territory.

Previously, Washington has only been allowed by Moscow to transport non-lethal supplies by rail. The new deal should allow the United States to transport military supplies across Russia by air.

The two countries are also set to sign a declaration setting up the framework for the renewal of the Cold War-era Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires in early December.

But the Interfax news agency quoted a high-ranking Russian foreign ministry source as saying officials from the two sides have yet to agree the wording of the document, with time running out ahead of Obama's arrival.

The Obama administration has yet to say whether it will **implement** a plan devised by his predecessor George W. Bush to install missile defence facilities in the Czech Republic and Poland which has infuriated Russia.

Moscow believes the missile **shield** is aimed against its territory but Washington has insisted it is designed to counter the threat posed by Iran.

Medvedev said in an interview with Italian media **released** Sunday that unlike the previous administration Obama was prepared to discuss the issue. "We are completely capable of finding a sensible outcome," he said.

"Russia is not against such defence systems. But they should not be aimed against a very prominent nuclear country like Russia. We think such decisions put us in a difficult situation."

Obama said in an interview with a Russian newspaper to be published Monday that such a defence shield was aimed at protecting the United States and Europe from Iran "and not against an attack from Russia".

"Such thinking is simply a legacy of the Cold War," he told the Novaya Gazeta, according to excerpts published by the ITAR-TASS news agency in Russian.

The shadow of the past was also underlined when Obama stated in an interview with The Associated Press that he believed "Putin has one foot in the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new."

By contrast, Obama said he had "a very good relationship" with the youthful Medvedev, prompting speculation he was seeking to divide Russia's hitherto tight ruling tandem.

Obama's interview with the opposition Novaya Gazeta – the newspaper of the murdered journalist and scathing Putin critic Anna Politkovskaya – will also be noted in Russian liberal circles.

Medvedev had earlier this year given an interview to the same newspaper, a move that some commentators said would have been unimaginable under the Putin presidency.

According to Russian media reports, up to 10,000 members of the security forces will line the route Obama's convoy takes when he travels from a Moscow airport to the city centre.

The president, his wife Michelle and two daughters are to stay in a **lavish** suite at the Ritz Carlton hotel with views of Red Square.

Obama will be hoping for a smoother reception than on a 2005 visit to Russia when a coordination mix-up resulted in the then senator and his colleague Richard Lugar being detained for three hours at the airport in the Urals city of Perm.

His two-day visit will also see the US president meet Russian opposition leaders, civil society representatives and give a keynote address to a graduation ceremony at a top economics university.

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Explain in your own words the headline (Obama heads to Russia to warm chilled ties)
2. What are the objectives of the summit?
3. Why is there a disagreement over the missile shield?
4. Explain the following sentence: "Putin has one foot in the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new."
5. Explain the underlined words as used in the text.

PARTII: WRITING (20 POINTS)

In no more than 5-6 paragraphs write an essay on one of the topics below.

1. Is it better to work with a group or to work independently?
2. Why have you made up your mind to sit for this exam?

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ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE

Ecole Normale Supérieure Enrolment Exam
Session: July 2009
Department: English
Exam. Translation (**English/French- French/English**)
Duration : 3h
Coef : 2

Read the following text carefully and then translate it into French.

The railway bridge.

Later on we were on a road that led to a river. There was a long line of abandoned trucks and carts on the road leading up to the bridge. No one was in sight. The river was high and the bridge had been blown up in the centre; the stone arch was fallen into the river and the brown water was going over it. We went on up the bank looking for a place to cross. Up above I knew there was a railway bridge and I thought we might be able to get across there. The path was wet and muddy. We did not see any troops; only abandoned trucks and stores. Along the river bank there was nothing and no one but the wet brush[1] and muddy ground. We went up to the bank and finally we saw the railway bridge.

" What a beautiful bridge" Aymo said. It was a long plain iron bridge across what was usually a dry river-bed.

" We better hurry and get across before they blow it up, " I said.

Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

[1] Undergrowth, small trees.

Read the following text carefully and then translate it into English.

Le fugitif.

Un peu avant l'aube Tayar arrive devant la haute montagne. Il a marché toute la nuit, ne s'arrêtant qu'une fois, dans un café de routiers au bord de la nationale, juste le temps de boire une tasse de café âcre[1] qui lui a brûlé la gorge. La route qui serpente au fond de la vallée l'a conduit jusqu'aux contreforts[2] de la haute montagne. Tayar a traversé le torrent un peu avant le pont, et il a escaladé les anciennes terrasses d'oliviers jusqu'à ce qu'il trouve la route étroite qui grimpe en lacets vers le sommet de la montagne. Maintenant, il est devant le haut-plateau[3] calcaire, et le noir de la nuit devient gris peu à peu.

L'air est froid, d'un froid sec qui fait mal. Tayar n'est vêtu que du pantalon de toile grise et de la chemise-veste réglementaires. Il est pieds nus dans des chaussures de basket sans lacets. La fatigue de la longue marche pèse sur lui, le fait tituber. Il grelotte de froid. Il quitte la route, et commence à marcher[...] sur les pierres qui s'éboulent...

J.M.G. Le Clézio, *La Ronde et autres faits divers* (1982)

[1] Bitter.
[2] Foothills.
[3] High plateau.

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ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE

Ecole Normale Supérieure Enrolment Exam
Session: July 2009
Department: English
Exam: Translation (**English/Arabic- Arabic/English**)
Duration : 3h
Coef : 2

Read the following text carefully and then translate it into Arabic.

The Republic of the Animals which Major had foretold, when the green fields of England should be untrodden by human feet, was still believed in. Some day it was coming: it might not be soon, it might not be within the lifetime of any animal now living, but still it was coming. Even the tune of 'Beasts of England' was perhaps hummed secretly here and there: at any rate, it was a fact that every animal on the farm knew it, though no one would have dared to sing it aloud. It might be that their lives were hard and that not all of their hopes had been fulfilled; but they were conscious that they were not as other animals. If they were hungry, it was not from feeding tyrannical human beings; if they worked hard, at least they worked for themselves. No creature among them went upon two legs. No creature called any other creature 'Master'. All animals were equal.

George Orwell, *Animal Farm*. P. 81, Librairie du Liban, Beirut, 2005.

Read the following text carefully and then translate it into English.

... تعرف الدكتور رشيد أثناء دراسته في باريس إلى "جانيت" الفرنسية وأحبها ثم اصطحبها معه إلى مصر وتزوجها وأنجبا ابنهما الوحيد "حاتم" وعاشت الأسرة حياة غربية قلبا وقالبا فلا ينكر حاتم أبدا أنه رأى أباه الدكتور رشيد يصلي أو يصوم ، كان الغليون لا يفارق فمه والنبيذ الفرنسي دائما على مائدته وأحدث الاسطوانات الصادرة في باريس تتردد في أنحاء البيت والفرنسية لغة التخاطب الغالبة في البيت ، وعلى طريقة الغربيين كان كل شئ في حياة الأسرة يتم بناء على موعد وتخطيط ، حتى لقاء الأصدقاء والأقارب وكتابة الخطابات الشخصية كان الدكتور رشيد يخصص لها ساعات محددة كل أسبوع والحق أنه بالإضافة إلى قدراته العقلية الفذة كان يملك طاقة مذهلة على العمل المتواصل واستطاع في عقدين اثنين أن يحقق طفرة حقيقية في دراسة القانون المدني المصري

علاء الأسواني، *عمارة يعقوبيان*. ص. 105، مكتبة مدبولي، القاهرة، 2005.