



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.

Texte

Jimmy is a teenager living with his parents. Both his father and mother work at a company called NooSkins. In this extract, Jimmy is spying on his parents from his bedroom thanks to tiny microphones that he had hidden in the house.

"What's that for?" said the voice of Jimmy's mother. She meant the champagne.

"We've done it," said Jimmy's father's voice. "I think a little celebration is in order."
A scuffle: maybe he'd tried to kiss her.

"Done what?"

5 Pop of the champagne cork. "Come on, it won't bite you." A pause: he must be pouring it out. Yes: the clink of glasses. "Here's to us."

"Done what? I need to know what I'm drinking to."

10 Another pause: Jimmy pictured his father swallowing, his Adam's apple going up and down, bobbity-bobble. "It's the neuro-regeneration project. We now have genuine human neocortex tissue growing in a pigoon¹. Finally, after all those duds! Think of the possibilities, for stroke² victims, and..."

¹ The word "pigoon" is a mix of "pig" and "balloon".

² A stroke: rupture of a blood vessel in the brain, resulting in loss of consciousness, often followed by paralysis.

Modèle CCYC : ©DNE

Nom de famille (naissance) :

(Suivi s'il y a lieu, du nom d'usage)

Prénom(s) :

N° candidat :

N° d'inscription :



Né(e) le :

(Les numéros figurent sur la convocation.)

1.1

“That’s all we need,” said Jimmy’s mother. “More people with the brains of pigs. Don’t we have enough of those already?”

15 “Can’t you be positive, just for once? All this negative stuff, this is no good, that’s no good, nothing’s ever good enough, according to you!”

“Positive about what? That you’ve thought up yet another way to rip off a bunch of desperate people?” said Jimmy’s mother in that new slow, anger-free voice.

“God, you’re cynical!”

20 “No, you are. You and your smart partners. Your colleagues. It’s wrong, the whole organization is wrong, it’s a moral cesspool and you know it.”

“We can give people hope. Hope isn’t ripping off!”

25 “At NooSkins’ prices it is. You hype your wares and take all their money and then they run out of cash, and it’s no more treatments for them. They can rot as far as you and your pals are concerned. Don’t you remember the way we used to talk, everything we wanted to do? Making life better for people — not just people with money. You used to be so... you had ideals, then.”

“Sure,” said Jimmy’s father in a tired voice. “I’ve still got them. I just can’t afford them.”

30 A pause. Jimmy’s mother must’ve been mulling that over. “Be that as it may,” she said — a sign that she wasn’t going to give in. “Be that as it may, there’s research and there’s research. What you’re doing — this pig brain thing. You’re interfering with the building blocks of life. It’s immoral. It’s... sacrilegious.”

35 Bang, on the table. Not his hand. The bottle? “I don’t believe I’m hearing this! Who’ve you been listening to? You’re an educated person, you did this stuff yourself! It’s just proteins, you know that! There’s nothing sacred about cells and tissue, it’s just...”

“I’m familiar with the theory.”

“Anyway it’s been paying for your room and board, it’s been putting the food on your table. You’re hardly in a position to take the high ground.”

40 “I know,” said Jimmy’s mother’s voice. “Believe me, that is one thing I really do know. Why can’t you get a job doing something honest? Something basic.”

“Like what and like where? You want me to dig ditches?”

“At least your conscience would be clean.”

Margaret ATWOOD, *Oryx and Crake*, 2003



1. Compréhension de l'écrit (10 points)

Answer the following questions in **English**, using your own words.

- a) Do Jimmy's parents agree in this scene? Why or why not?
- b) What does NooSkins specialise in?
- c) Explain the following quotations in your own words:
 - a. "You used to be so... you had ideals, then." (l. 25-26)
 - b. "Sure," said Jimmy's father in a tired voice. "I've still got them. I just can't afford them." (l. 27-28)
- d) "At least your conscience would be clean." (l. 42): what do Jimmy's mother's words reveal about his father's job and motivations?

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

"Don't you remember the way we used to talk, everything we wanted to do? Making life better for people — not just people with money." (l. 24-25)

Imagine a conversation between Jimmy's parents when they were young students at university studying science.

Sujet B

On a forum dedicated to sciences, you read the following comment.

To my mind, what really motivates scientists and researchers is not really money. I would say that they are more interested in glory and in prestige.

Do you agree? Why or why not?