

<i>Code branche</i> <b>ANGLA</b>	<b>Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse</b> <b>EXAMEN DE FIN D'ETUDES SECONDAIRES TECHNIQUES</b> <b>Régime technique - Session 2015/2016</b>	
<i>Épreuve écrite</i>	<i>Branche</i>	<i>Division / Section</i>
<i>Durée épreuve</i> <b>3 heures</b>	<b>ANGLAIS</b>	<b>CG / CC</b>
<i>Date épreuve</i> <b>06 JUIN 2016</b>		

- DICTIONARIES ARE NOT ALLOWED FOR THIS PART -

**A1. ESSENTIAL ARTICLES**

**(15 marks)**

**'My beef isn't with beef: why I stopped being a vegetarian'**

- a) Why did Jenna Woginrich become a vegetarian and have a change of heart later on? (8 m)

**'Bring back the cane to restore discipline in schools'**

- b) What would be the effects of bringing back the cane, according to Nick Freeman? (7 m)

**A2. SHORT STORIES**

**(15 marks)**

**'Sauce for the Goose'**

- a) How does Olivia manage to get Loren to do exactly what she wants him to? (8 m)

**'The Model Millionaire'**

- b) In how far does this story contradict its opening statement that 'unless one is wealthy there is no use in being a charming fellow?' (7 m)

## PART TWO

(30 marks)

- DICTIONARIES ARE ALLOWED FOR THIS PART -

Read the following text and answer the questions in your own words.

### **Buying begets buying: how stuff has consumed the average American's life**

The personal storage industry rakes in \$22bn each year, and it's only getting bigger. Why?

It's not because we're short on space. In 1950 the average size of a home in the US was 983 square feet. Compare that to 2011, when American houses ballooned to an average size of 2,480 square feet – almost triple the size.

And finally, it's not because of our growing families: family sizes in the western world are steadily shrinking, from an average of 3.37 people in 1950 to just 2.6 today.

So, if our houses have tripled in size while the number of people living in them has shrunk, what, exactly, are we doing with all of this extra space? And why are billions of dollars tossed to an industry that was virtually nonexistent a generation or two ago?

Well, friends, it's because of our *stuff*. What kind of stuff? Who cares! Whatever fits! Furniture, clothing, children's toys, games and kitchen gadgets that don't do anything but take up space and look pretty for a season or two before being replaced by other, newer things – equally pretty and equally useless.

The simple truth is this: if you have more stuff than you do space to easily store it, your life will be spent a slave to your possessions.

We shop because we're bored, anxious, depressed or angry, and we make the mistake of buying material goods and thinking they are treats which will fill the hole, soothe the wound, make us feel better. The problem is, they're not treats, they're responsibilities and what we own very quickly begins to own us.

The second you open your wallet to buy something, it costs you – and in more ways than you might think. Yes, of course there's the price tag and the corresponding amount of time it took you to earn that amount of money, but possessions also cost you space in your home and time spent cleaning and maintaining them. You're also taking on the task of disposing of it (responsibly or not) when you're done with it. Our addiction to consumption is a vicious one, and it's stressing us out.

A study published by UCLA showed that women's stress hormones peaked during the times they were dealing with their possessions and material goods. Anyone who parks on the street because they can't fit their car into the garage, or has stared down a crammed closet, can relate.

Our current solution to having too much stuff is as short-sighted as it is ineffective: when we run out of space, we simply buy a bigger house. This solution will never work, and the

reason is that possessions seem to hold strange scientific properties – they expand to fill the space you provide for them.

This is why some normal adult human beings can live in houses just 426 square feet and others find that not even their 2,500-square-foot mansion feels big enough. It's almost never the amount of space that's the problem, but the amount of *stuff*.

So if bigger homes aren't the solution, what is? I suggest heading in the exact opposite direction: deliberately choose a life with less. Buy less and instantly you have less to store; you use less space. Eventually you can work less to pay for all of this stuff. Soon you will stress less too and, above all, your life will involve less waste.

Are you wondering where to begin? Don't. You know *exactly* where this journey starts. It starts with the stuff that makes you feel guilty, stressed or overwhelmed when you look at it. The clothing with price tags still on them, the toys no one plays with, the boxes and boxes of stuff you're storing in your attic, basement and garage, just in case. Get rid of it; recycle it, donate it, sell it on *e-bay*. And when you're done getting rid of it, stop buying more.

Because when it comes to stuff, I promise you, you don't need more labels or better storage systems – all you need is *less*.

(683 words, adapted from an article by Madeleine Somerville in [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk), 20 October 2015)

#### B1. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(15 marks)

- 1) Why do we buy so much stuff? (4 m)
- 2) In which sense are the goods consumers buy not treats but responsibilities? (6 m)
- 3) What advice does Madeleine Somerville give on how to solve - and not to solve - our storage problems? (5 m)

#### B2. DEVELOPMENT QUESTION

(15 marks)

*Use your own arguments, do not just restate ideas from the text.  
Limit: 250 words +/-10%; indicate the number of words.*

*Discuss the following statement:*

**Money can't buy happiness.**