

Code branche <b>ANGLA</b>	Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES TECHNIQUES Régime technique - Session 2015/2016	
Épreuve écrite	Branche	Division / Section
Durée épreuve 3 heures	<b>Anglais</b> <i>Repêchage</i>	<b>GE/GI/AR/SO</b>
Date épreuve <i>23.9.16</i>		

## PART I

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE A DICTIONARY

### A) ARTICLES

**1. My beef isn't with beef : Why I stopped being a vegetarian**

Why and how has the author's attitude towards vegetarianism changed? (7 marks)

**2. iSlave**

Describe the relationship between Foxconn and its workers. (8 marks)

### B) SHORT STORIES

**1. Marionettes Inc.**

Explain why both men are fascinated by the idea of having a double. (8 marks)

**2. Sauce for the Goose**

Show how Stephen and Olivia's relationship changed over time. (7 marks)

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**PART II – UNKNOWN TEXT**  
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**Generation Uphill**

SHEN XIANG LIVES in a container on a construction site in Shanghai, which he shares with at least seven other young workers. Mr Shen is a migrant worker and the son of two migrants, so he has always been a second-class citizen in his own country.

Now he paints hotels and his ambition is “to get married as fast as I can”. But he cannot afford to. There are more young men than young women in China so the women can afford to be picky. Mr Shen had a girlfriend once, but her family demanded that he buy her a house. “I didn’t have enough money, so we broke up,” he recalls. Mr Shen doubts that he will ever be able to buy a flat in Shanghai.

There are 1.8 billion young people between 15 and 30 in the world. However, what is true of young Chinese may not apply to young Americans or Burundians. But the young do have some things in common: they grew up with smartphones and in a time of global financial crisis. They fret about a good education, a steady job, a home and—eventually—someone with whom to start a family.

Some argue that the young are an oppressed minority, held back by their elders. They are unlike other oppressed minorities, of course. Their “oppressors” do not intend to harm them. On the contrary, they often love and nurture them.

Companies are obsessed with understanding how “millennials” think, to recruit them or sell them stuff. Endless reports explain that they like to share, require constant praise and so forth. Pundits worry that millennials in rich countries never seem to grow out of adolescence, with their constant posting of selfies on social media and their desire to be shielded from discomforting ideas.

In some respects the young have never had it so good. They are richer and likely to live longer than any previous generation. If they are female or gay, in most countries they enjoy freedoms that their predecessors could barely have imagined and they have access to better nutrition and mass education.

Yet much of their talent is being squandered. In many regions they are at least twice as likely as their elders to be unemployed and a great number of youngsters are not in education, employment or training and the job market they are entering is more competitive than ever.

Higher education has become so expensive that students accumulate heavy debts. Housing has grown costlier too, especially in the megacities, which offer the best jobs, higher pay, excitement and other young people to date or marry.

The path from school to work, marriage and children has become longer and more complicated. Many young people now study until their mid-20s and only have children in their 30s, partly because they want to and partly because it is taking them longer to become established in their careers and feel financially secure.

Throughout human history, the old have subsidised the young. In some rich countries, however, that flow has recently started to reverse. Public spending favours pensions and health care for the old over education for the young. As societies age, many more will join them.

Politicians listen to the people who vote - which young people seldom do - and often the party favoured by older voters win a thumping victory. "My generation has a lack of faith in political parties," says Aditi Shorewal, the editor of a student paper at King's College, London. In autocracies the young are even more disillusioned. In one survey, only 10% of Chinese respondents thought that young people's career prospects depended more on hard work or ability than on family connections.

Countries need to work harder to give the young a fair shot. If they don't, a whole generation's talents could be wasted. That would not only be immoral; it would also be dangerous. Angry young people sometimes start revolutions, as the Arab Spring has shown.

658 words adapted from *The Economist* (by Robert Guest, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2016)

### COMPREHENSION

1. Why does the author argue that today's young are an 'oppressed minority'? (6 marks)
2. Which difficulties do the young people face? (9 marks)

### DEVELOPMENT QUESTION (15m)

**Write 250 words (+-10%). Indicate the number of words used.**

Do you feel that the young people of today are better off, or worse off, than previous generations?