

<b>EAE 0422 A</b>	
Code Sujet	LLG 12
Sujet Jury	
Sujet Candidat	
Page Sujet	1 / 3

**La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.**

**SUBJECT:**

"Yet we encounter somewhat facile generalizations concerning the behaviour of individual words in terms of their gradability, and also the tendency to treat the category of gradability as a rather rigid one, marking individual words either [+ gradable] or [- gradable]. In this paper I challenge that position and want to show that adjectives such as *dead*, *married*, and *pregnant*, which are often cited as non-gradables *par excellence*, are actually used as gradables. At the same time I propose that gradability be redefined as a 'squishy' category but not as an 'either-or' feature."

Kazuo KATO, "Gradable gradability", *English Studies* 67, 1986, p. 174.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

Code sujet	LLG 12
Page Sujet	2 / 3

### Excerpt 1

"You are to learn the subtle science and exact art of potion-making," he began. He spoke in barely more than a whisper, but they caught every word – he had the gift of keeping a class silent without effort. "As there is little foolish wand-waving here, many of you will hardly believe this is magic. I don't expect you will really understand the beauty of the softly simmering cauldron with its simmering fumes [...]."

Joanne K. Rowling, *Harry Potter*, 1997

### Excerpt 2

"And Lilian, look sharp. Help the little girl out of her coat. Poor child, looks more dead than alive." Dot felt herself freeze with fear as the swivel-eyed Lilian lurched towards her, arms outstretched, to try to remove her coat. "Don't mind her," Gloria hissed in Dot's ear. "She's just a bit mental. Always has been."

Rachel Anderson, *Paper Faces*, 1991

### Excerpt 3

"Good riddance, I say. Pregnant! She was no more pregnant than I am!" "Then why did she claim to be?" Corbett enquired.

Paul C. Doherty, *Crown in Darkness*, 1991

### Excerpt 4

And as I came back down this mucky road from the High Street, which, as you know, can be a pretty depressing trek home especially if you're tired, it all seemed bright somehow, and welcoming. The people seemed kindly and one or two nodded or greeted me. And all the babies suddenly looked so nice.

Jenny Joseph, *Persephone*, 1986

### Excerpt 5

"I understand perfectly what you're saying. You're saying that I'm pretty hopeless at everything, but somebody might, just might, be prepared to put up with my teaching." "No, I'm not saying that at all. You're perfectly capable of teaching; it's just that you've now got this thing about it."

Michael Falk, *Part of the Furniture*, 1991

### Excerpt 6

My mother would sing that song up and down the corridors of this house. Tan alegre, mi madre. Such a happy woman, my mother.

Tanya Saracho, *El Nogalar*, 2011

### Excerpt 7

No, not that, but I had seen men struck down in the streets of Cleveland. They'd leave for the office in the morning feeling fine. During the day, they'd complain of being hot and achy. By evening, waiting on the corner for a streetcar, they'd fall to the pavement, already dead or near to it. Gary soon became one of them. Poor boy.

Marie Doria Russell, *Dreamers of the Day*, 2008

### Excerpt 8

Thomas Carter came right out and told you that he thought England was the only truly civilized country in the world and that as the most English of English cities, Oxford was its heart and soul [...]

Michael Dibdin, *Dirty Tricks*, 1991

### Excerpt 9

You are very alive, very active... you just travel too fast to see the end result.

Robert Holdstock, *Lavondyss*, 1988

### Excerpt 10

Frinton-on-Sea, in the Harwich constituency, is mocked as the deadest town in England.

*The Daily Telegraph*, 06/04/1992

### Excerpt 11

America had, said the paper, just launched a new submarine torpedo boat, declared (by the Americans, I hope) to be "the most unique vessel of that character ever invented".

*New Scientist*, 1991

### Excerpt 12

A very unique Swan – the only Swan ever built with a sauna in the forecabin!

[Goods adverts], BNC

Code sujet	LLG 12
Page Sujet	3 / 3

**Excerpt 13**

USA TODAY's Olivia Barker shared Otto's profile with find-a-husband consultant Rachel Greenwald, who mapped out a matter-of-fact market plan. Lincoln is a college town where the single men are too young and the thirtysomething men are too married.

Olivia Barker, *USA Today*, 2003

**Excerpt 14**

The thing was more than irregular, of course – it was preposterous! A married woman – and married, what is more, to one of the best-known grooms of the county – going through another ceremony with a different groom!

Clerence Brown, *The Groom*, 1997

**Excerpt 15**

"Have you told Matt?" The redhead shook her head. "How pregnant are you?" "I don't know. Maybe about six weeks."

Danielle Steel, *Message from Nam*, 1990

**Excerpt 16**

Her mother had been too pregnant to make the trip, so her father had taken her along instead.

Marly Swick, *Evening News*, 1999

**Excerpt 17**

You don't look too pregnant, he said. I figured you'd be bigger. She said nothing to him yet. Your face got rounder, he said.

Kent Haruf, *Plainsong*, 1998

**Excerpt 18**

Come around to this side of the counter and you'll see how impossible it is to read it from here.

Harley Jane Kozac, *Dating Dead Men*, 2005

**Excerpt 19**

"The cigarette is the most perfect of perfect pleasures. It is exquisite and it leaves you unsatisfied. What more could anyone wish for?"

Patricia Berman, *Edvard Munch's Self-portrait with Cigarette*, 1993

**Excerpt 20**

Underemployment remains a serious problem. Civil demonstrations are becoming more common; they were not directed towards Chavez until the May-June protests in 2007. There is no question that the most enormous task at hand for the President to resolve is the pervasive corruption in every layer of Venezuelan society.

Leon Yacher, *Photojournal: Venezuela*, 2007

**Excerpt 21**

I'm an American. I believe in optimism. I believe in looking forward, not back. Of course, you don't always take all your old friends and acquaintances forward with you.

John Lathrop, *The Desert Contract*, 2008

**Excerpt 22**

The house belongs to him and his wife, a very old friend of mine.

Jane Feather, *A Husband's Wicked Ways*, 2009

**Excerpt 23**

After the Friday night meal, Aunt Bella and her husband hold frequent teas for a few acquaintances, usually as old as they, and this is the range of Masha's life.

Joe Tyennick, *Life without Valentino*, 2001

**Excerpt 24**

Eight thousand, with the wind buffeting me and the altitude signs swaying. Nine thousand. Almost done. Which was good. After five hours, I was ready to get off this bike, no matter how nice. I was suddenly very ready to eat something.

Stephen Madden, *The Haole Who Rode Up Haleakala*, 2002