

TEST DE RECRUTEMENT SECTION INTERNATIONALE AUSTRALIENNE

NIVEAU : LYCÉE

DURÉE : 2 HEURES

SESSION : 2024

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME _____

PART 1: WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

Read the following text. Then, answer the questions directly on the exam paper.

My head throbs and the insides of my ears itch. I'm sick of sitting under fluorescent lights, lined up in rows with a hundred other girls wearing blue-and-white uniforms, staring at our transparent plastic desk-mounted visi-screens. But that's Mary Magdalene Ladies' College for you. I rub my ear moulds so they scratch at my ears, but it's not enough. I can't take out my hearing aids yet, though; not until class finishes.

Taylor nudges me again and gestures with her head towards Madison, Alyssa and Briony. Something's going on. They're crowding around Madison's visi-screen. A buzz ripples through the classroom as a bunch of other girls notice and wander over to join them. Soon enough, they're all talking emphatically ... and they keep glancing over at me.

I check our teacher, Lisa. She throws me a glance before typing something and bringing up whatever it is on her own visi. She's supposed to be controlling our behaviour! Why isn't she telling everyone to shut up and focus on food poisoning?

And what does whatever's going on have to do with me? I strain my eyes, trying to catch my classmates' words on their lips, but everywhere I look I see faces obscured by long locks of shiny hair. My hearing aids are no good for stuff happening on the other side of the room.

I stare anyway and notice a rim of inflamed red skin around Madison's wristlet. She's had it implanted! Wow. No wristband required, and no need to recharge it anymore. Forgetting your wristlet because it's charging has been the worst — no tram check-ins, no access to your money at shops, no way to prove your ID. [...]

Taylor taps her visi and brings up News Melbourne. Mum comes into focus, speaking to the camera. Oh. Everyone knows I'm Irene McBride's daughter. Taylor taps again, and the text version rolls down the screen.

NEWSMELBOURNE

Recon Rally Unfounded

Parents of unwell children are rallying at Federation Square, expressing concerns recon could be causing the recent rises in rhinitis, asthma and Energy Deficiency Syndrome, particularly in vulnerable people such as the young and elderly. However, Organicore's leading scientist, Irene McBride, provides reassurance that recon is not the cause: 'Increasing pollution, declining air quality, and problems with water due to desalination plant issues are all likely culprits for health issues. We at Organicore are committed to finding solutions, not creating problems. The common cold, cancer and obesity are now history, thanks to our research team, and we are working on detoxification boosters to include in recon to address these current problems.'

Onscreen, Mum looks poised. The image cuts to Fed Square, where angry parents are clutching pale, wheezy-looking children. One placard says *Don't drug our kids*, which seems a bit harsh. I remember when Mum added the fat-destroyers, cancer-zappers and virus-killers to Nutrium Sustate, the nutrition powder she developed. At first the idea of mass medication in our food was controversial, but that changed once Karen Kildare was elected prime minister and News Melbourne started publishing the stats each week so that we could all see the health benefits for

40 ourselves.

I massage my temples and try to ignore the stares. So what? It's just news. But I can't help myself from sliding News Melbourne into view; despite Mum's apparent confidence, I know this will be stressing her out.

45 A new feed has replaced the one about recon, though. Mum's already history. Instead, there's a photo of Organicore's biggest competitor: people are crowding through the doors of an outlet of the Allstar supermarket chain.

NEWSMELBOURNE

Consumers Swarm Supermarkets

50 *This week's oil price jump has affected incoming shipments of food and consumer goods, resulting in a shortage on supermarket shelves. Desperate consumers are stockpiling basics, leaving with trolleys piled high, while others meet sparsely stocked shelves with disappointment. It's a tough week for consumers, with electricity and gas prices also on the rise and petrol already beyond the average household budget.*

I yawn. I'm sick of this oil thing already. I don't get why it's such a big deal. [...]

55 Taylor pokes me and eyeballs her visi. She's written me a message: 'Come to a party with me and Beau on Sat night? It's in Fitzroy, not far from you.'

Beau's the guy she's been hanging around with. Things must have escalated if she's going to a party with him. I haven't met him yet, but according to Taylor he's older, tall and magnetising.

I type back, 'Good to see you putting in a solid effort on our assignment.'

60 She kicks me under our desk. I nod and give her the thumbs up. *Yeah, I'll come.*

Future Girl, Asphyxia (2020)

-Your answers should be as concise as possible.

-When quoting, write the exact quotation and indicate the line number(s). Exaggeratedly long quotes will be considered improper.

1- Where does the scene take place? One answer or more may be correct.

☐ in the street

☐ in a supermarket

☐ in a classroom

☐ in Sydney

☐ in Melbourne

☐ in an unnamed city

2- What is the exact name of the place the narrator is in?

3- Are the following statements about the narrator true or false? Tick the correct answer.

a- The narrator is a character in the story.

☐ true ☐ false

b- The narrator is a young man.

☐ true ☐ false

c- The narrator is a teenager.

☐ true ☐ false

4- How is the narrator related to the following characters? Fill in the following sentences.

-Taylor is the narrator's

-Madisson, Alyssa and Briony are the narrator's

-Lisa is the narrator's

-Irene McBride is the narrator's

5- The narrator has a medical condition. What is it? Justify your answer with one quotation.

6- a- Find two technological devices that show that this story is set in a fictional future. Explain how they work in your own words.

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b- Explain what “*Nutrium Sustate*” (38) is in your own words.

7- What do the two passages in italics correspond to?

8- Give examples of issues the people in the story have to face (one element of answer for each empty space)

health issues			
environmental issues			
economic issues			

9- Are the following statements right or wrong? Justify your answer with a short quotation.

a- Taylor motioned the narrator to look towards Madison, Alyssa and Briony. ☐ right ☐ wrong

quotation:

b- The teacher keeps asking the students to pay attention to the class. ☐ right ☐ wrong

quotation:

c- Obesity and cancer are still major health problems in the story. ☐ right ☐ wrong

quotation:

d- Irene McBride is pretending to be calm and unaffected. ☐ right ☐ wrong

quotation:

e- Taylor has been in a serious relationship for some time. ☐ right ☐ wrong

quotation:

PART 2: WRITTEN EXPRESSION

You will treat ONE subject only (on the paper provided).

Please indicate the number of words you used at the end of your written expression.

1/ After her school day is over, the narrator walks back home thinking about the footage of frenzied people in shops cleaning out shelves. When she finally comes home, her mother is already there and is so preoccupied that she barely notices her daughter is back. Imagine the conversation between the narrator and her mother. (150 words minimum)

OR

2/ If you could design the perfect eco-friendly city of the future, what would it be like? (150 words minimum)

OR

3/ To what extent do we, as individuals, share a responsibility in climate change and how can everyone contribute to reduce their impact on the environment? (150 words minimum)