

# ADMISSION TEST 2024

March 6, 2024

American Section	British Section
Lycée International de l'Est Parisien	Lycée Edouard Branly Lycée Evariste Gallois Nouveau lycée de Vincennes

**Length: 1h30**

**No dictionary allowed**

Make sure you have all 9 pages of this test.

## READ CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU START

- Write down your **candidate number** at the top-right of every page.
- Candidates are allowed to annotate and highlight the text.
- All your answers must be written on the answer sheet.
- Make sure you write clearly and do not use a pencil.
- Make sure you follow the instructions.

At the end of the exam, **hand in all the papers** you have (exam paper, text, draft copy)

For the first two weeks of my condition, my mother and father did not live a regular life. They were up with me at all hours of the night, and my mother was afraid to leave me alone in the day. But then they must have suddenly decided to take everything in stride, and, without making too much of it, they went back to their usual routines. The rain was still falling, but my father went back to work, leaving our house at the stroke of seven by the Anglican church bell. One day, my mother left me alone and went to the fish market for the fish that was to be our dinner that night. Just before she left, she said, "Little Miss, try and get some rest"—the main thing both my parents said to me now.

Once I was alone, suddenly some photographs that were in frames and arranged in a semicircle on the little table not far from my bed loomed up big in front of me. There was a picture of me in my white dress school uniform. There was a picture of me as a bridesmaid at my Aunt Mary's marriage to Monsieur Pacquet. There was a picture of my father wearing his white cricket uniform, holding a bat with one hand, the other arm wrapped tightly around my mother's waist. There was a picture of me in the white dress in which I had just been received into church and took Communion for the first time, wearing shoes that had a decorative cutout on the sides. When I had bought those shoes and showed them to my mother, she said that they were not fit for a young lady and not fit for wearing on being received into church. We had an enormous fight over the shoes, and I may have said unspeakable things to her, though I have forgotten everything except that at the end I turned and said, "I wish you were dead." As I said it, I felt hollow inside. My mother then got such a bad headache that the turtleberry leaves she placed on her temples to draw out the pain had to be changed every two hours, so quickly did the heat of the pain scorch them. That night, I could hear her making some moaning sounds as she paced up and down the house, because the pain kept her awake. When she stopped, I was sure that she had died, and that the new sounds I heard were the sounds of the undertaker, Mr. Strafee, come to remove her body for burial.

The photographs, as they stood on the table, now began to blow themselves up until they touched the ceiling and then shrink back down, but to a size that I could not easily see. They did this with a special regularity, keeping beat to a music I was not privy to. Up and down they went, up and down. They did this for so long that they began to perspire quite a bit, and when they finally stopped, falling back on the table limp with exhaustion, the smell coming from them was unbearable to me. I got out of bed, gathered them up in my arms, took them over to the basin of water on the washstand, and gave them a good bath. I washed them thoroughly with soap and water, digging into all the crevices, trying, with not much success, to straighten out the creases in Aunt Mary's veil, trying, with not much success, to remove the dirt from the front of my father's trousers. When I finished, I dried them thoroughly, dusted them with talcum powder, and then laid them down in a corner covered with a blanket, so that they would be warm while they slept. I got back into bed, and I must have fallen asleep, for the sound of my mother's voice—a worried bleat, really—brought me back to just lying in my bed and looking up at the ceiling.

My mother was on her hands and knees, trying to dry up the floor. When I washed the pictures, I had spilled water all over, and my nightie and my sheets were wet. The pictures were in a little heap off to one side of the room, and even in my state I could see that they were completely ruined. None of the people in the wedding picture, except for me, had any face left. In the picture of my mother and father, I had erased them from the waist down. In the picture of me wearing my confirmation dress, I had erased all of myself except for the shoes. When my father came home, I heard him say, "Poor Miss, she can't even be left alone for a short while."

**Jamaica Kincaid (1985), *Annie John***

**Do not answer questions on this sheet.**  
**Use the answer sheet on the first page of this test.**

**1. What did the narrator's parents do during the first two weeks of the narrator's condition?**

- A. Continued their regular routines
- B. Took turns caring for the narrator
- C. Hired a nurse for assistance
- D. Sent the narrator to stay with relatives

**2. Why did the narrator's mother go to the fish market one day?**

- A. To buy new shoes
- B. To get medicine
- C. To fetch dinner ingredients
- D. To visit a friend

**3. What did the mother suggest the narrator do before leaving the house?**

- A. To not touch anything
- B. To lie down and sleep
- C. To make sure the door is locked
- D. To not wait up

**4. What suddenly caught the narrator's attention when she was alone?**

- A. Television noise
- B. Rain tapping on the window
- C. Photographs on a table
- D. Music playing in the background

**5. What caused the narrator's mother to have a headache?**

- A. A fight with the narrator
- B. A sudden rainstorm
- C. Cooking in a hot kitchen
- D. An argument with the father

**6. What action did the narrator take with the photographs?**

- A. Dust them off
- B. Get rid them in the dustbin
- C. Soak them in water
- D. Hang them on the wall

**7. What is the meaning of the word "undertaker" (l. 25)?**

- A. An entrepreneur
- B. A serial killer
- C. A funeral director
- D. A doctor

**8. Line 24 “the new sounds I heard” - What sounds did she actually hear?**

- A. The undertaker’s footsteps
- B. Her mother’s wails
- C. Rain on the roof
- D. The reader cannot know

**9. Observe line 29 “They did this for so long that they began to perspire quite a bit (...)”. In this sentence, who are “they”?**

- A. The parents
- B. The sounds of the undertaker
- C. The shoes
- D. The photographs

**10. Why did the narrator have a fight with her mother over a pair of shoes?**

- A. The shoes were too expensive.
- B. The shoes were not suitable for church.
- C. The mother wanted the shoes for herself.
- D. The narrator didn't like the design.

**11. What did the photographs on the table appear to do?**

- A. Dance
- B. Change in size
- C. Talk
- D. Disappear

**12. What was the father's reaction to the narrator's actions?**

- A. Laughed
- B. Scolded the narrator
- C. Expressed sympathy
- D. Ignored the mess

**13. What part of the pictures disappeared?**

- A. Faces in the wedding picture
- B. Background details
- C. Entire bodies in all pictures
- D. Only the narrator's face

**14. Which two words best describe the narrator's state of mind when saying “I wish you were dead” (lines 19 & 20) to her mother?**

- A. Amusement and indifference
- B. Anger and remorse
- C. Delusion and disappointment
- D. Pride and sadness

**15. What did the mother use to calm her headache caused by the argument?**

- A. A good bath
- B. Chemical painkillers
- C. Spending time feeding animals with fruit
- D. Natural herbs

**16. In your opinion, what themes is the author trying to discuss?**

- A. Family relationships and personal identity
- B. Religion and authority
- C. Difficult jobs and class conflict
- D. Photography and clothes

**17. What is the implication of the phrase “a worried bleat” (line 38)?**

- A. The narrator is comparing her mother to a farm animal.
- B. It emphasises the mother’s pain.
- C. The narrator is making fun of the mother.
- D. It highlights the mother’s anger.

**18. What does the erasing of specific elements from the pictures symbolise?**

- A. Expressing her aesthetic preference
- B. Fulfilling her creative artistic talent
- C. Obliterating part of her past
- D. Making an unintentional mistake

**19. Line 28 “(...) a music I was not privy to.” - what does this mean?**

- A. I did not have any privacy when listening to music.
- B. I had never heard that music before.
- C. I was deprived of my right to listen to music.
- D. I was not able to hear the music.

**20. The narrator deals with the photographs as if ...**

- A. she were a mother taking care of babies.
- B. she were a cleaner washing clothes.
- C. she were a chef cooking a meal.
- D. she were a nurse taking care of patient.

## Reading Test -- Answer Sheet

Question Number	Answers (only one correct answer per question)				Points
1	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
2	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
3	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
4	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
5	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
6	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
7	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
8	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
9	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
10	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
11	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
12	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
13	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
14	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
15	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
16	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
17	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
18	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
19	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
20	a <input type="checkbox"/>	b <input type="checkbox"/>	c <input type="checkbox"/>	d <input type="checkbox"/>	0 1
				Total:	/20

For examiner use only	Points
Reading	/10
Writing	/10

## WRITING

Choose from **one** of the 3 options below (250 words):

1. As the saying goes, 'a picture is worth a thousand words.' How true is this statement for you?
2. Write one or two entries from the mother's diary following the photograph incident.
3. Write the beginning of a story that corresponds to this image:



Lily Furedi, *Subway*, 1934, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum,



[illegible]