



N° DE DOSSIER : .....

CONCOURS D'ENTREE / SESSION DU 15 JUIN 2008

EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS

Durée : 1 h

Coefficient : 3

L'usage du dictionnaire est interdit.

Les réponses doivent être indiquées directement sur les feuilles de sujet.

Compréhension : 10 points

Grammaire : 5 points

Vocabulaire : 5 points

**I – COMPREHENSION – 10 points**

Lisez le texte suivant et répondez ensuite aux questions.

"Allen, Are you deaf, or are you simply on a different astral plane this morning ?"

I poked my head out of my cubicle. All around me my coworkers were staring straight ahead at their terminals – a habit we all fell into whenever Rubinek decided to berate someone, out of fear that he might catch our eye and turn his poisonous attention to us.

"I didn't hear the question, Burt," I said.

"So you are deaf."

"I was just preoccupied with – "

"I WILL REPEAT THE QUESTION ONCE AGAIN : What time is designated as start of business in this company ?"

"Eight-thirty," I said quietly.

"Very good. Very good. Eight-three-oh. We are at our desks at eight-thirty, ready to make our first calls at eight-forty-five. And what time did you walk in this morning ?"

"Around eight thirty."

"Wrong ! You arrived here at eight-thirty-six. How many minutes late were you?"

"There was a delay in the subway. Someone jumped under a train at Thirty-fourth Street. I think he used to work here."

[...]

"A comedian, huh ?"

"I was just trying to lighten things up, Burt."

"My name is Mr Rubinek. You were six minutes late this morning. And you were insubordinate."

"It was a joke, Mr Rubinek."

"I didn't hire you to stand up. I hired you to push the product. And to show up not around eight-thirty, but at eight-thirty. Your quota this week is now eighteen units."

"Oh, for Christ's sake..."

"You don't like it, there's the door. He glanced at the big digital clock that hung on the main wall. 8:44:52. Everyone else fell silent, watching the seconds tick down.

"Right people..." Burt Rubinek shouted. The clock turned 8:45. A loud bell sounded. The selling day has begun. Suddenly the room erupted into babble as 120 telesales operators began chasing the first sale of the day, everyone fearfully conscious of the weekly quota they needed to reach in order to report back to work next Monday.

Rubinek turned back to me and said : "Eighteen units by close of business tomorrow, or you're out of here."

"That's not fair and you know it," I said. He gave me a wall-to-wall smirk.

"You're right. It's not fair. I do know it. And I don't care."

Douglas Kennedy, abridged from *The Job*, 1998.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **A/ Choose the correct answer**

#### **1. The scene takes place**

- a) in a firm                      b) in a garage                      c) in a train station

#### **2. The conversation is between**

- a) two people                      b) three people                      c) four people

#### **3. Who was late that day ?**

- a) Burt                      b) Allen                      c) Mr Rubinek

#### **4 . The narrator goes to work**

- a) by bus                      b) by car                      c) by train

#### **5. The narrator is**

- a) Burt's friend                      b) Burt's employee                      c) Burt's employer

#### **6. The two characters are**

- a) arguing                      b) chatting                      c) negotiating

### **B/ Are the following statements right (R) or wrong (W) ?**

1. People are afraid of Rubinek.
2. The narrator knows when he arrived at work precisely
3. He has an excuse for being late
4. People around the narrator keep watching him
5. The narrator is half an hour late
6. The workers are under pressure to sell

### **C / From the following list, pick up three adjectives wich best describe Mr Rubinek :**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. bossy         | 4. furious      |
| 2. friendly      | 5. sympathetic  |
| 3. understanding | 6. bad-tempered |

### **D / In the text find and copy down the equivalent of each of the following words or expressions :**

1. colleagues : .....
2. every time : .....
3. another time : .....
4. just : .....

**II – GRAMMAIRE – 5 points**

Choisissez la bonne réponse.

**1. Jenny has .....eyes of the family.**

- a) Beautiful
- b) The most beautiful
- c) More beautiful
- d) Very beautiful

**2. She encouraged ..... the town.**

- a) to leave
- b) Bobby to leave
- c) That Bobby should leave
- d) To Bobby to leave

**3. Jane .....just a few minutes ago.**

- a) Arrived
- b) Arrives
- c) Has arrived
- d) Had arrived

**4. He stopped working..... a rest**

- a) having
- b) to have
- c) for having
- d) for have

**5. Senegal's fast moving economy.....a modern banking system**

- a) needs
- b) hopes
- c) obliges
- d) asks

### III – VOCABULAIRE – 5 points

*Dans chacune de ces phrases, UN mot est souligné. Choisissez LE mot dont la signification est la plus proche du mot souligné.*

**1. This is the most interesting book I've ever read.**

- a) Boring
- b) Absorbing
- c) Pleasing
- d) Exciting

**2. He gave me this picture to show me his affection.**

- a) friendship
- b) resentment
- c) passion
- d) harmony

*Parmi les mots proposés ci-dessous, trois ont la même signification. Trouvez celui qui n'est PAS un synonyme des trois autres.*

**3.**

- a) to upset
- b) to share
- c) to disturb
- d) to distress

**4.**

- a) to fancy
- b) to imagine
- c) to conceive
- d) to hurry

**5.**

- a) intelligent
- b) foolish
- c) bright
- d) clever