

NAME: .....

STUDENT ID NUMBER: .....

**BAC 1 ASC**

Academic Year 2010 – 2011

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**ENGLISH EXAM** (Course Code: LANG 0086)



Please circle your teacher's name: D. Bui – B. Liébecq – P. Maquinay

PARTS OF THIS TEST ARE **MACHINE MARKED**.

Please read the following instructions very carefully.

- Use only black or blue biro. Make sure the boxes are completely filled with ink or you will not receive credit for the answer.
- Put your name and student's ID number on the sheets where required.
- Correct answer = +1 // No answer = 0 //  
Wrong answer = - 1 divided by the number of solutions - 1 (= penalty for guessing)  
**E.g.** If there are 4 choices you lose 0.3333 mark for a wrong answer / If there are 5 choices you lose 0.25 mark for a wrong answer  
=> *Guessing may prove risky!*
- Write the number of the answer you think correct on the **RED AND BLACK ANSWER SHEET**.

**PART I – LISTENING**

You are going to listen to three testimonies from people whose weddings were cancelled. Answer the following questions.

*First testimony: Elizabeth*

*Second testimony: George*

*Third testimony: Nicole*

**Useful vocabulary:**

Stationery: Papier à lettre

Distraught: Egaré, affolé

Bridesmaid: Demoiselle d'honneur

Smashing: Super, genial

Rehearsal: Répétition

**Q1. Who did not end their relationship after their wedding was cancelled?**

1. Elizabeth
2. George
3. Nicole
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q2. Who is resentful [Fr: plein de ressentiment] towards the person to whom they were supposed to get married?

1. Elizabeth
2. George
3. Nicole
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q3. Who got married to someone else after cancelling their wedding?

1. Elizabeth
2. George
3. Nicole
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q4. Why did Elizabeth feel pressure to go through with the wedding?

1. Because she wanted to keep everyone happy
2. Because the wedding had cost a lot of money
3. Because everybody had already prepared for the wedding
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q5. Why did Elizabeth want to cancel the wedding?

1. Because she was nervous
2. Because her parents had divorced
3. Because she did not love Paul anymore
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q6. How did Paul react to Elizabeth's decision?

1. He was devastated
2. He was upset but not too much
3. He did not care at all
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q7. What did Elizabeth do with her dress afterwards?

1. She used it to act in a horror movie
2. She threw it away
3. She wore it at a party
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q8. Why did George decide to postpone the wedding?

1. Because Vicky panicked at the idea of officialising their relationship
2. Because he did not love Vicky
3. Because the rehearsal went wrong
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q9. How did George feel when he decided to postpone the wedding?

1. He was concerned about himself
2. He was angry at Vicky
3. He wanted to break up with Vicky
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q10. What happened after they postponed the wedding?

1. They broke up
2. Their relationship continued as if nothing had happened
3. They stayed together but it was never the same as before
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q11. Will George ever get married?

1. Never
2. Only if it is with Vicky
3. It is a possibility, but not with Vicky
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q12. How did Michael tell Nicole that he did not want to get married anymore?

1. He gave her a note and ran away
2. He phoned her
3. He had a face to face conversation with her
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q13. What did Nicole do after she found out that she was not getting married anymore?

1. She decided to have a party
2. She got drunk
3. She danced
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q14. What was the common point between Nicole and Michael?

1. They both liked travelling
2. They both believed in destiny
3. They had the same origins
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Q15. How much money did Nicole end up spending (considering the things that she could keep after the wedding)?

1. 25,000 \$
2. 17,000 \$
3. 19,000 \$
4. All of the above
5. None of the above

Read the text “Yugoslavia” and do the following exercises.  
The text is on the last two pages of this exam paper.

**I. The endings of paragraphs C, D, E, F, J are missing. Match the beginnings of the paragraphs to the corresponding endings (1 to 5).**

	Q 16	Q 17	Q 18	Q 19	Q 20
Paragraph	C	D	E	F	J
Ending of the paragraph = ...					

**II. There are five MISSING WORDS or PHRASES in the text. Fill them in with one of the following items:** ... / 5

Items: 1. well / 2. in certain lights / 3. besides / 4. unquestioningly / 5. eventually / 6. at once

	Q 21	Q 22	Q 23	Q 24	Q 25
GAP	A	B	C	D	E
Item nr.					

**III. VOCABULARY** ... / 5

**Guess the meaning of the following words or expressions FROM THE CONTEXT, and choose the best answer.**

<b>Q26. to lapse §A</b>	1) to no longer be valid	2) to be destroyed	3) to be lost
<b>Q27. to throttle §C</b>	1) to take in somebody's arms	2) to hate	3) to kill by strangling
<b>Q28. donned §F</b>	1) put on	2) gave	3) bought
<b>Q29. whispered §H</b>	1) shouted	2) murmured	3) threw
<b>Q30. gazing at §H</b>	1) eating	2) looking steadily at	3) talking to

**IV. CLOSE READING : Decide which statement is correct. In each series there is only one choice possible.** .../5

Q31. The narrator took a plane to Split because...

1. he hated hitch-hiking when he did it with Katz. Indeed, they had a bad experience so he was afraid of hitch-hiking again.
2. he was in a hurry. Indeed, he would soon have to stop travelling because of his visa, so he had no time to lose.
3. he had to be there as soon as possible. Indeed, his wife was waiting for him in Split with his new visa.
4. his wife and his two sons were waiting for him impatiently. Indeed, they needed help in the restaurant they had just opened.

- Q32. The woman the narrator met when he arrived into town...
1. offered him a room but it was too expensive so the narrator refused to follow her.
  2. wanted him to follow her to her house to help her repair her son's car.
  3. was an old friend of his so he followed her to her house to have a cup of coffee and talk about the good old times.
  4. *None of the above is correct.*
- Q33. The narrator...
1. had a bad experience soon after he arrived in Split: he was ambushed in a four-storey building near the town and the thugs robbed him of his money.
  2. had a Swiss Army knife in his pocket and he knew well how to use it so he wasn't afraid at all of being attacked.
  3. had a Swiss Army knife in his pocket but he wasn't really used to handling it so it wouldn't have been of any use in case of thugs attacking him.
  4. never took the bus in Yugoslavia because he thought the people there drive very badly.
- Q34. The two boys in the apartment...
1. couldn't speak to the narrator at all because they didn't know a single word in English.
  2. invited the narrator to go to the restaurant with them that night.
  3. were quite friendly with the narrator and they even tried to talk to him in English.
  4. *None of the above is correct.*
- Q35. Which of these statements is true?
1. Katz came to Split to spend some time with his friend, the narrator.
  2. Katz and the narrator met two very attractive girls during their stay in Vis.
  3. Vis is a wonderful town where the narrator had the opportunity to be given a scary ride in a speedy car.
  4. The two attractive girls were the woman's daughters and worked in a restaurant.

### PART III – GRAMMAR

... / 25

- Q36. Since I \_\_\_\_\_ acting, I \_\_\_\_\_ in two plays, a television commercial and a TV drama.
1. have begun / have performed
  2. began / had performed
  3. have begun / performed
  4. began / have performed
- Q37. By the time I \_\_\_\_\_ to the office, the meeting \_\_\_\_\_ without me.
1. get / had already begun
  2. have got / had already begun
  3. got / had already begun
  4. got / has already begun
- Q38. Paul \_\_\_\_\_ backache for many years before his wife \_\_\_\_\_ him go to the doctor
1. had had / made
  2. has had / made
  3. had had / got
  4. has had / had
- Q39. When I \_\_\_\_\_ a student, I \_\_\_\_\_ reasonably long multi-night trips
1. became / used to backpack
  2. was / used to backpack
  3. became / used to backpacking
  4. was / used to backpacking
- Q40. A: This watch was very expensive!  
B: 1. Didn't it? 2. Did it? 3. Was it? 4. Wasn't it?
- Q41. A: I've got some interesting info on the new job, do you want to hear it?  
B: 1. Of course, I want to 2. Of course, I do 3. Of course, I have 4. Of course, it is

- Q42. A: Have you heard, Paul and Mary are getting married in August ?  
B: 1. Have they... 2. Have I ? 3. Are they ? 4. Get they ?
- Q43. \_\_\_\_\_ our own business is everyone's dream in our group.  
1. To start 2. Start 3. Starting 4. To starting
- Q44. \_\_\_\_\_ where you shouldn't is not a problem in our country whereas \_\_\_\_\_ litter in the street is.  
1. Parking / dropping 2. To park / to drop 3. Park / drop 4. Parking / to drop
- Q45. Yesterday I saw a horror movie. I was very \_\_\_\_\_ because I love horror movies and the one I saw was \_\_\_\_\_.  
1. excited/terrifying 2. excited/terrified  
3. exciting/terrifying 4. exciting/terrified
- Q46. I \_\_\_\_\_ lunch in the kitchen when I \_\_\_\_\_ a dreadful noise in the garden.  
1. was having/heard 2. had/heard 3. had/was hearing 4. have had/heard
- Q47. It was only when I \_\_\_\_\_ home late at night that I \_\_\_\_\_, to my horror, that I \_\_\_\_\_ for the meal.  
1. get / have realised / have not paid 2. got / realised / hadn't paid  
3. got / have realised / hadn't paid 4. have got / have realised / have not paid
- Q48. Although IQ tests \_\_\_\_\_ when Mozart composed his music, \_\_\_\_\_ that his IQ was around 160-170.  
1. did not invent / researchers think 2. did not invent / researchers thought  
3. had not been invented / it is thought 4. had not been invented / it was thought
- Q49. Dad, I \_\_\_\_\_ my homework. Can I go out now?  
1. had just finished 2. have just been finishing  
3. have just been finishing 4. have just finished
- Q50. If you come tomorrow after 8pm, \_\_\_\_\_ Standard-Anderlecht.  
1. I'll be watching 2. I'll watch 3. I am watching 4. I'll have watch
- Q51. John \_\_\_\_\_ with me for several months, but he still can't remember my name.  
1. is working 2. works 3. worked 4. has been working
- Q52. I suppose my family really \_\_\_\_\_ me while I \_\_\_\_\_.  
1. has influenced / am growing up 2. influences / am grown up  
3. influenced / was growing up 4. influenced me / have grown up
- Q53. I \_\_\_\_\_ by a specialist after this stupid accident !  
1. have to have my car repaired  
2. have to have my car repairing  
3. get to get my car repairing  
4. get to get my car repaired
- Q54. A man \_\_\_\_\_ for hooliganism, because he \_\_\_\_\_ a police car just after the match.  
1. had been arrested / had been attacking  
2. has been arrested / had attacked  
3. is arrested / is being attacking  
4. was been arrested/had attacked
- Q55. Rewrite the sentence so that it is more formal : « *Some people believe that drinking a little red wine every day is good for your health.* »  
1. We believe that drinking a little red wine every day is good for your health  
2. It is believed that drinking a little red wine every day is good for your health  
3. Red wine is good to drink for your health  
4. It is good to believe that wine is good for your health

- Q56. Rose says she \_\_\_\_\_ the email, but I am sure she \_\_\_\_\_ because I \_\_\_\_\_ three times and it is not there.
1. has sent / hasn't / have checked
  2. sent / did / checked
  3. is sending / isn't / am checking
  4. was sending / wasn't / was checking
- Q57. The last eclipse \_\_\_\_\_ only in the northern hemisphere.
1. was saw
  2. was seen
  3. will be seeing
  4. is seen
- Q58. If you \_\_\_\_\_ my bicycle, I will never speak to you again.
1. would damage
  2. damaged
  3. had damaged
  4. damage
- Q59. If I \_\_\_\_\_ a million euros, I \_\_\_\_\_ a yacht.
1. win / purchased
  2. won / would purchased
  3. will win / will purchased
  4. none of these
- Q60. A new version of Linux \_\_\_\_\_ soon
1. will be released
  2. has been released
  3. was released
  4. is released

#### PART IV – VOCABULARY

... / 25

- Q61. A synonym of "blunder":
1. promise
  2. mistake
  3. argument
  4. journalist
- Q62. Complete the following sentence: "The journalists have to \_\_\_\_\_ with the producer and the editor in order to know what they expect from them."
1. liaise
  2. broadcast
  3. promote
  4. record
- Q63. Complete the following sentence: "She \_\_\_\_\_ that she would soon be back and she came back 2 days later, indeed."
1. had axed
  2. had butchered
  3. had probed
  4. had vowed
- Q64. The contrary of a law-abiding person is:
1. somebody who respects and obeys the law
  2. somebody who doesn't respect and obey the law
  3. somebody who admires police officers
  4. somebody who doesn't want to be involved in politics
- Q65. Complete the following sentence: "Yesterday, the police arrested the gang of \_\_\_\_\_ that was terrorizing the neighbourhood."
1. breeds
  2. weeping boys
  3. thugs
  4. slants
- Q66. The definition of "news list" is:
1. stories to be included in a programme
  2. events that are happening as we speak
  3. detailed discussion about work that has been done
  4. the most important stories
- Q67. When you update something, you \_\_\_\_\_.
1. add the most recent information
  2. decide the sequence of stories in a programme
  3. choose a date for an event
  4. give instructions about the type of documentary you'd like to be provided with
- Q68. What is the opposite of "liberal":
1. emotive
  2. conservative
  3. reactionary
  4. neutral

Q69. A radio commissioning brief can be compared with:

1. a job advertisement
2. a newspaper
3. a news list
4. a documentary

Q70. Which word matches the following definition: "the rules or instructions that are given by an official organization telling you how to do something"?

1. viral marketing
2. podcast
3. guidelines
4. deadline

Q71. Mr. Salt is my \_\_\_\_\_ teacher. I wonder what he does now; he's probably retired.

1. current
2. former
3. older
4. formerly

Q72. I am very nervous for that exam and I usually don't do very well when I am under \_\_\_\_\_.

1. pressure
2. pression
3. pressing
4. pressed

Q73. The Prime Minister works very hard and yet, he doesn't earn much money. He clearly is \_\_\_\_\_.

1. mispayed
2. underpaid
3. mispaid
4. underpayed

Q74. My brother is sky-diving today. He's probably having \_\_\_\_\_.

1. a lifelike time
2. the chance of a lifetime
3. a life of luxury
4. the time of his life

Q75. "You are bleeding! What happened?"

"I \_\_\_\_\_ on the corner of the table!"

1. slipped my knee
2. got my knee stuck
3. banged my knee
4. banged myself the knee

Q76. If you get frisked, you \_\_\_\_\_.

1. get searched for hidden objects you might carry
2. get helped to get back on your feet
3. get booked by the police
4. are made to stand with your arms and legs sprained

Q77. He cracked his head and a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ of blood started running along his face.

1. river
2. net
3. trickle
4. outbreak

Q78. My sister is extremely \_\_\_\_\_: she always wants to control everything and tells everyone what to do.

1. stubborn
2. bossy
3. self-confident
4. aggressive

Q79. You have been hesitating for weeks now. It's about time you \_\_\_\_\_ !

1. made up your mind
2. bore in your mind
3. kept your mind off
4. minded your head

Q80. Your uncle is very understanding and he has no problem accepting people who are different. He's very \_\_\_\_\_.

1. absent-minded
2. narrow-minded
3. large-minded
4. open-minded

Q81. Ralph is very \_\_\_\_\_; he thinks he will end up \_\_\_\_\_.

1. pessimist/penniless
2. pessimistic/penniless
3. pessimistic/pennifull



4. pessimist/penniful

Q82. Being defeated is a temporary condition. Giving \_\_\_\_\_ is what makes it permanent.

1. in                                      2. off                                      3. up                                      4. out

Q83. Find the sentence with the same meaning as "to get a joke":

1. To understand a joke    2. To make a joke    3. To laugh at a joke    4. To steal a joke

Q84. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Snow White is arguably when Snow White eats the cursed apple and dies.

1. setting    2. conclusion    3. beginning    4. climax

Q85. Bob \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his hot coffee on the floor.

1. stumbled/slipped    2. slipped/stumbled    3. stumbled/spilled    4. spilled/stumbled

PART V – Cambridge English for the Media

.../8

**I. Turn the two following sentences into newspapers headlines.          .../2**

The British Prime Minister is going to open a new museum in London.

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A judge has sentenced a thirty-five-year-old woman to 15 years of prison because she killed her husband after finding out that he had had a child with another woman.

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**II. Briefly discuss the language devices (play on words, cultural references, alliteration, emphatic language) used in these three headlines? Justify your answer.          .../2**

Traffic takes toll on tourists

---

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Belgian government: to be or not to be?

---

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**III. What do the following words mean? Define them in a few words.          .../4**

A stringer:

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A mugger :

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Cues :

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A dry version:

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PART VI – WRITING

... / 20

Choose ONE of the following topics. Write A 200-WORD TEXT on this topic.

### I. Writing a narrative

Imagine a follow-up (Fr. *suite*) to the beginning of Bill Bryson's trip to Yugoslavia.

Requirements:

- 1° You should keep writing in the first person singular (pronoun = I).
- 2° Use the past tenses.
- 3° Organize your text in paragraphs (not fewer than 3 but not more than 5).

Advice:

Here are a few suggestions to help you in this writing task. These are just suggestions! Use them only if you think they can be useful.

- You could bring in an unexpected problem.
- You could introduce an interesting new character or give more details about one of the characters presented earlier.
- Try to include a climax in the story. You can also use dialogues to make the event more vivid.
- Provide an amusing conclusion (which could perhaps link back to the beginning of the story)...

Linking words/phrases can help you to organize your ideas clearly.

OR

### 2. Writing a formal letter of complaint

Your brand-new smart phone is broken. It is equipped with the latest frills. You have been to the customer service of the chain store from which you bought the phone, but the customer care assistant who helped you was rather rude and did not really take your problem into account. That is why you are putting your complaint in writing.

Requirements:

- 1° Respect the **lay-out** (Fr. *mise en page*) of a formal letter;
- 2° Use appropriate language, that is rather **formal** language;
- 3° Organize your text in paragraphs (not fewer than 3 but not more than 5).

Advice:

Here is a possible structure for your letter of complaint:

- In paragraph 1 you could state briefly what you are complaining about; give some details about the context in which you bought the smart phone (When? Where? How much did it cost? Was it a gift? ...)
- You could use the following two paragraphs to make your complaints. Try to be specific enough.
- In the last paragraph you could say what you would like them to do for you.
- Sign off using an appropriate letter ending (= polite phrase).

Linking words/phrases can help you to organize your ideas clearly.

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**I have chosen topic nr. \_\_**

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ASSESSMENT GRID		
1. <u>Structure and organization of the text</u> : lay-out, clear organisation in paragraphs, One paragraph = one main idea		2
2. <u>Grammatical and syntactic correctness</u> (complex sentences)		6
3. <u>Vocabulary</u> : variety, range & accuracy		4
4. Accurate <u>spelling</u>		2
5. <u>Communicative efficiency and contents</u> : originality and relevance + ability to express ideas, opinions and/ or a personal experience clearly and coherently		5
6. <u>Risk-taking</u> : nice stylistic features, humour, etc.		1
TOTAL MARK		<b>20</b>

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**DRAFT**

## Yugoslavia<sup>1</sup>

A. I flew to Split, half-way down the Adriatic coast in Yugoslavia. Katz and I had hitch-hiked there from Austria. It took four days of standing on baking roadsides on the edge of a series of nowhere watching carloads of German tourists sweep past, so there was a certain pleasure even now in covering the same ground in hours. I had no choice: I was running out of time. I had to be in Bulgaria in six days or my visa would lapse(=Q26).

B. I caught a bus into town from the airport and was standing at the harbourside in that state of mild indecisiveness that comes with the sudden arrival in a strange country, when a woman of late middle years approached and said quietly, as offering something illicit, 'Zimmer? Room? You want?'

'Yes, please', I said, suddenly remembering that this was how Katz and I had found a room in Split. 'How much?'

'Ten t'ousan' dinar', she said.

C. Five dollars. This sounded like my kind of a deal. I considered the possibility that she might have four grown sons at home waiting to throttle (=Q27) me and take my money [...]=**Q16**

D. We took a bus to her neighbourhood, twenty minutes away up a long hill, stepped off on a nondescript residential street somewhere at the back of the town. The lady led me down a complicated series of steps and sunny alleyways full of scrawny cats. It was the sort of route you would follow if you were trying to give someone the slip [Fr. *semer quelqu'un*]. [...]=**Q17**

E. 'Come', she said, and I followed her up the stairs to the top floor and into her apartment. It was small and plainly furnished, but spotless and airy. Two men in their twenties, both vaguely thuggish-looking, were sitting in T-shirts at the table in the kitchen/living-room. [...]=**Q18**

F. In fact, they turned out to be nice fellows. Isn't the world a terrific place? They were her sons and knew a little English because they worked as waiters in town. One of them, in fact, was just off for work and would give me a lift if I wanted. I gratefully accepted on account of the distance and my considerable uncertainty as to where I was. He donned (=Q28) a red waiter's jacket and walked me to a dusty blue Skoda parked on a nearby street, where he fired up the engine and took off at a speed that had the back of the car fish-tailing and me holding the armrest with both hands. It was like being in one of those movie chase scenes where the cars scatter dustbins and demolish vegetable carts. [...]=**Q19**

G. Split is a wonderful place, with a pretty harbour overlooking the Adriatic and a cluster of green islands lurking attractively a mile or two offshore. Somewhere out there was Vis, where Katz and I had spent an almost wonderful week. We were sitting at an outdoor café one morning trying to anaesthetize hangovers with coffee, when two Swedish girls came up to us and said brightly, 'Good-morning! How are you today? Come with us. We're going on the bus to a beach on the other side of the island.'

H. ---GAP A--- (=Q21) we got up and followed. If you had seen these girls, you would have, too. They were gorgeous: healthy, tanned deliciously fresh-smelling, soft all over, with good teeth and bodies shaped by a loving god. I whispered (=Q29) to Katz as we walked along behind, massaging our eyeballs on the perfect hemispheres of their backsides, 'Do we know them?'

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<sup>1</sup>From *Neither here Nor there* by Bill Bryson

'I dunno. I think maybe we talked to them last night at that bar by the casino.'

'We didn't go to the bar by the casino.'

'Yes we did.'

'We *did*?'

'Yeah.'

'Really?' I could remember nothing of the night before other than a series of Bip Pivo beers passing before me, as if on a bottling line. I shrugged it off, youthfully unaware that I was in a single summer disabling clusters of brain cells at a pace that would leave me seventeen years later routinely standing in places like a pantry or toolshed, gazing at (=Q30) the contents and trying to remember what the hell it was that had brought me there.

I. We went on a bouncing bus to the far side of the island, to a fishing village called Komiža, had a long swim in a warm sea, a couple of beers at a beachside taverna, caught a bouncing bus back to Vis town, had some beers, told stories, compared lives, fell in love.

J. ---GAP B---(=Q22), I did anyway. Her name was Marta. She was eighteen, dark and from Uppsala and she seemed to me the fairest creature I had ever run eyes over- though it must be said that by this stage of the trip even Katz, ---GAP C---(=Q23), was beginning to look not half bad. In any case, I thought she was lovely and the miracle was that she appeared to find a certain charm in me. She and the other girl, Trudi, grew swiftly drunk and loquacious and spent half the time talking in Swedish, but it didn't matter. I sat with my chin in my hands, just gazing at this Swedish fantasy, hopelessly besotted, stirring to my senses from time to time just long enough to suck back drool and take a sip of beer.[...] =Q20

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### Possible endings for paragraphs C, D, E, F and J

1. It wouldn't have altogether surprised me if she had asked me to put on a blindfold [Fr. *mettre un bandeau sur les yeux*]. ---GAP D---(=Q24) we crossed a plank over a narrow ditch, made our way across a grassless yard and entered a four-storey building that looked only half-finished. A cement mixer was standing by the stairwell. I was beginning to have my doubts. This was just the place for an ambush.

2. Uh-oh, I thought, casually sliding my hand into my pocket and fingering my Swiss Army knife, but knowing that even in ideal circumstances it takes me twenty minutes to identify a blade and prise it out. If these guys came at me I would end up defending myself with a toothpick and tweezers.

3. - I have long assumed that this is how I will die: trussed up and dumped into the sea after following a stranger offering an unbeatable bargain - but she looked honest enough. ---GAP E---(=Q25), she had to trust that I wasn't an axe murderer. 'Sure', I said. 'Let's go.'

4. Occasionally she would lay a hand on my bare forearm, sending my hormones into delirious turmoil, and once she glanced over and absently stroked my cheek with the back of her hand. I would have sold my mother as a galley slave and plunged a dagger into my thigh for her.

5. 'I'm a bit late', he explained as he chased a flock of elderly pedestrians off a zebra crossing and turned on two wheels into a busy avenue without pausing to see if any cars were coming. There were, but they generously made way for him by veering sideways into buildings. He dropped me by the marketplace and was gone before I could barely get out a 'Thank you'.

