

Contenus	Compréhension écrite	Compétence linguistique	Expression écrite	Total
Séries SG	12	8	10	30

After 20 hours' travelling on three different planes, I was finally nearing my destination. From up in the air I searched for any sign of civilisation in the hundreds of miles of lakes and trees. I nearly missed Aklavik, which from the plane looked the size of my thumbnail.

5 It was here in Aklavik, a remote village in the Canadian Arctic Circle, with its 350 inhabitants, one grocery store and the snowy, bitter-cold wilderness as the only distraction, that I first became interested in medicine.

I had won a place on a gap-year programme to help out at the local school. The village of Aklavik is surrounded by breathtaking beauty, but is plagued by high levels of unemployment and by drug and alcohol abuse. As a teaching assistant, my job was to help out with everything from science to PE lessons, but in practice I found myself teaching. I also offered one-to-one tutoring for students with special needs. Many are suffering from the effects of foetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), a big problem within the Inuit and Gwich'in community. Foetal alcohol syndrome is the name given to the physical and mental damage caused to babies when women drink during pregnancy. The high unemployment rate here leads many people to turn to alcohol and drugs, and their children are affected. I tutored one girl who had the condition quite severely. At 13, she had a reading age of just six. I worked with her on practical skills such as cookery, finance skills and sewing. She was amazing. It was rewarding to watch her grow, but sad to see how something that could be prevented continued to affect people throughout their lives.

25 During that year I learned a lot about the community and their way of life, but also about myself. The town offered little entertainment, so we would read, play guitar and play board games. We went for walks. You only had to walk for five minutes and it felt like you were at the end of the world. The simple life is one of the best.

- 30 Since I didn't have the right A-levels to apply for a medicine course, at the end of my gap year I applied to do a law degree. But something inside me knew it was the wrong move and I changed my mind. I went back home to Wales and spent a year doing a chemistry A-level, therefore opening the doors to a career in medicine. In Aklavik I learned to be more versatile and resilient. The small things don't bother me anymore because I know there are bigger problems. It's my dream to go back to Aklavik and work as a doctor.
- 35

The Guardian, August 16, 2008

I) COMPREHENSION : (12 points)

I. FILL IN THE TABLE WITH INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT. (4 points)

Village name	Aklavik
Location of the village	
Numbers of inhabitants of the village	
Common problem in the village	
Narrator's career ambition	

II. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (6 points)

1. What is the text talking about ?
2. How long was the narrator's journey to Aklavik ?
3. How does unemployment affect most of the people in the village ?
4. What does FAS stand for ?
5. What did the narrator learn during the gap year ?

III. WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PRONOUNS REFER TO ?

1. I near missed Aklavik. (paragraph 1)
2. She had a reading age of just six. (paragraph 3)

II) LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE : (8 points)

Some words of grammar parts are missing from the text below. Write the number and the right answer in your answer sheet. There is an example at the beginning(0).

Volunteering (1).....a community project on your gap year is the(1) way to make a real difference to a local community and to (2) the lives of a society in need. There are (3) projects to choose from. (4) Helping to build an orphanage, improving medical care in your country(5) encouraging the cultural development of people in Asia. The one thing all community projects(6) in common is(7) they are(8) geared towards changing collective lives for the better, and in helping to accomplish this you will experience your own personal growth, develop invaluable new skills and gain a genuine sense of achievement.

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|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. a. with | b. on | c. of |
| 2. a. best | b. better | c. well |
| 3. a. improved | b. Improving | c. improve |
| 4. a. very | b. many | c. much |
| 5. a. such as | b. so | c. since |
| 6. a. but | b. then | c. or |
| 7. a. has | b. have | c. had |
| 8. a. that | b. therefore | c. before |
| 9. a. ultimate | b. ultimately | c. ultimatum |

II) WRITING : (8 points)

Seuls les candidats de la série L traiteront les deux sujets. Les candidats des séries ES, S et SG, traiteront l'un des 2. sujets. Le nombre de mots exigés est de 150 à 200 (ES, S, SG). Pour la série L, le nombre de mots exigés pour chaque sujet est de 150 à 200.

Topic 1 : As a volunteer, what would you like to do for your community ? Use the following for hints.

- Areas of volunteering(teaching, cleaning, food distribution etc)
- Reasons for volunteering.

Topic 2 : What would you like to study at the university? Give reasons.