

PART ONE: Listening

[20 pts]

You will hear part of a radio discussion about marriage in Britain.

- For questions 1-10, complete the sentences using between 1-3 words.
- For questions 11-20, answer **true (T)** or **false (F)**.
- You will have **three minutes** to read **all** the questions before you hear the discussion **twice**.

More than **1** marriages in Britain fail.

Julie's husband proposed to her on his **2**.

They both wanted to make their relationship **3**.

Initially, Julie had more **4** for the wedding than her husband.

Statistically, you are **5** to get divorced again if you and your partner have been before.

Bryan's decision to marry Chrissie was influenced by **6**.

Bryan says their relationship lacked **7** at the beginning.

Julie says she and her husband mainly argue about **8** things.

Bryan thinks that having **9** has created most problems in his current marriage.

Julie believes that married couples need to be **10**.

	T	F
11 Bryan and Julie are married to one another.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Julie and her husband moved in together before her husband proposed marriage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Julie's parents were against the idea of them getting married.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 Bryan has been divorced once.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Bryan and his current wife get on very well.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Julie feels marriage has not changed her relationship with her husband at all.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Today, Bryan owns his own business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 On average, marriages last just under ten years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 Julie says she can see herself growing old with her husband.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Brian feels confident about the future of his current marriage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Silence, from 'Runaway', by Alice Munro.

This story is set in contemporary Canada. Juliet, a woman in her late fifties, is doing some research in the Classical Studies department of a Vancouver university. She used to be a successful TV interviewer. Penelope, her daughter, decided to disappear from her mother's life while she was on a retreat at a Spiritual Balance Centre about 15 years ago. For the last 10 years Juliet has had no word of her at all.

1 Juliet and Gary had just come out of a theater where they had seen an early-evening movie, and they were talking about where to go for dinner. It was a warm night in the summer, the light still not gone from the sky.

5 A woman detached herself from a group on the sidewalk. She came straight at Juliet. A thin woman, perhaps in her late thirties. Fashionable, with highlights in her dark hair.

"Mrs Porteous. Mrs Porteous."

Juliet knew the voice, though she would never have known the face. Heather.

10 "This is incredible," Heather said. "I'm here for three days and I'm leaving tomorrow. My husband's sat at a conference. I was thinking that I don't know anybody here anymore and then I turn around and see you."

Juliet asked her where she was living now and she said Connecticut.

15 "And just about three weeks ago I was visiting my brother and his family in Edmonton and I ran into Penelope. Just like this, on the street. She had her two boys with her, she'd brought them down to get uniforms for that school they go to. The boys. We were both flabbergasted¹. I didn't know her right away but she recognized me. She'd flown down, of course. From that place way up north. And she said you were still living here. But I'm with these people --- they're my husband's friends --- and I really haven't had time to ring you up..."

Juliet made some gesture to say that of course there would not be time and she had not expected to be rung up.

20 She asked how many children Heather had.

"Three. They're all monsters. I hope they grow up in a hurry. But my life's a picnic compared with Penelope's. *Five*."

"Yes."

25 "Listen. I have to run now, we're going to see a movie. Sorry I have to go, but it was altogether great meeting you like this. She hugged and kissed Juliet, the way everybody did nowadays, and ran to join her companions.

So. Penelope did not live in Edmonton --- she had *come down* to Edmonton. Flown down. That meant she must live in Whitehorse or in Yellowknife.

30 She had five children and two at least were boys. They were being outfitted with school uniforms. That meant a private school. That meant money.

35 Heather had not known her at first. Did that mean she had aged? That she was out of shape after five pregnancies, that she had not *taken care of herself*? As Heather had. As Juliet had, to a certain extent. That she was one of those women to whom the whole idea of such a struggle to keep in shape seemed ridiculous, a confession of insecurity? Or just something she had no time for --- far outside of her consideration.

40 Juliet had thought of Penelope being involved with a spiritual sect, of having become a mystic, spending her life in contemplation. Or else --- rather the opposite but still radically simple and austere -- earning her living in a rough and risky way, fishing, perhaps with a husband, perhaps also with some husky² little children, in the cold waters of the Inside Passage off the British Columbia coast.

Not at all. She was living the life of a prosperous, practical matron. Married to a doctor, maybe, or to a civil servant with a good job. If she ever met Penelope again they might laugh about how wrong Juliet had been. When they spoke about their separate meetings with Heather, how strange that was, they would laugh.

Penelope had said that she, Juliet, was still living in Vancouver. She had not told Heather

¹ overcome with astonishment

² strong

45 anything about the breach³. Surely not. If she had been told, Heather would not have spoken so easily. How did Penelope know that she was still living here, unless she had checked in the phone book? And if she did, what did that mean?

Nothing. Don't make it mean anything.

50 She walked to the curb to join Gary, who had tactfully moved away from the scene of the reunion. Whitehorse, Yellowknife. It was painful indeed to know the names of those places --- places she could fly to. Places where she could loiter⁴ in the streets, make plans for catching glimpses⁵.

But she was not so mad. She must not be so mad.

55 At dinner, she thought that the news she had just absorbed put her in a better situation for marrying Gary, or living with him --- whatever he wanted. There was nothing to worry about, or hold herself in wait for, concerning Penelope. Penelope was not a phantom; she was safe, as far as anybody is safe, and she was probably as happy as anybody is happy. She had detached herself from Juliet and very likely from the memory of Juliet, and Juliet could not do better than to detach herself in turn.

But she had told Heather that she was living in Vancouver. Did she say *Juliet*? Or *Mother*.

My mother.

60 Juliet told Gary that Heather was the child of old friends. She had never spoken to him about Penelope, and he had never given any sign of knowing about Penelope's existence.

If Juliet lived with him the fact of Penelope would never surface, Penelope would not exist.

65 Nor did Penelope exist. The Penelope Juliet was looking for was gone. The woman Heather had seen in Edmonton, the mother who had brought her sons to Edmonton to get their school uniforms, who had changed in face and body so that Heather did not recognize her, was nobody Juliet knew.

Does Juliet believe this?

70 If Gary saw that she was agitated he pretended not to notice. But it was probably on this evening that they both understood they would never be together. If it had been possible for them to be together she might have said to him, *My daughter went away without telling me good-bye and in fact she probably did not know then that she was going. She did not know it was for good. Then gradually, I believe, she realised how much she wanted to stay away. It is just a way that she has found to manage her life.*

75 *It's maybe the explaining to me that she can't face. Or has not time for, really. You know, we always have the idea that there is this reason or that reason and we keep trying to find out reasons. And I could tell you plenty about what I have done wrong. But I think the reason may be something not so easily dug out. Something like purity in her nature. Yes. Some fineness and strictness and purity, some rock-hard honesty in her. My father used to say of someone he disliked, that he had no use for that person. Couldn't those words simply mean what they say? Penelope does not have a use for me.*

Maybe she can't stand me. It's possible.

PART TWO: Comprehension

[20 pts]

Answer each of the following questions in about 50 words (approx. 5 lines) each. Use your own words!

1. Compare and contrast the Penelope imagined by her mother during all the years of their separation, with the Penelope of today that Heather ran into in Edmonton.
2. Has Juliet ever given up hope of finding her daughter again? Justify your answer by making references to the text.
3. In the end, why do you think Juliet and Gary cannot have a life together?
4. How does Juliet explain Penelope's decision to disappear from her life? Do her explanations seem plausible to you?
5. Do you, personally, think it is justifiable to break off all communication with one's family?

- **PLEASE USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER**
- **PLEASE LEAVE A MARGIN DOWN THE LEFT SIDE OF YOUR PAGE**
- **IF YOU QUOTE FROM THE TEXT USE QUOTATION MARKS**

³ the failure of their mother / daughter relationship

⁴ stand around waiting

⁵ getting the chance to see (Penelope) from a distance

PART THREE: Translation

[20 pts]

Ma mère avait l'habitude de dire qu'elle n'était pas égoïste. « Je vis pour les autres depuis si longtemps », aimait-elle répéter. Pourtant, elle voulait contrôler les êtres dont elle s'occupait et elle exigeait que nous lui obéissions. A la maison, il fallait laisser toutes les portes ouvertes ; nous devions travailler pendant qu'elle était là, ma sœur et moi. Quand la nuit nous nous chuchotions des secrets, elle criait : «Vous feriez mieux de dormir ! ». Plus tard, elle refusa que nous apprenions à nager et empêcha papa de nous acheter des bicyclettes : elle n'aurait pas partagé ces distractions et nous lui aurions échappé. Car elle ne supportait pas de se sentir isolée... Malgré tout, nous étions souvent émues par la chaleur de son affection. Elle était capable de nous soutenir contre le monde entier. Par exemple, vers 17 ans, ma sœur provoqua une querelle entre papa et oncle Adrien, qu'il considérait comme son meilleur ami. Pendant plusieurs mois, il ne parla plus à sa fille. Plus tard, quand elle décida de devenir peintre, il critiqua son choix : pourquoi ne pas gagner sa vie comme une jeune fille « normale » ? Maman prit la défense de ma sœur et fit de son mieux pour l'aider.

Librement inspiré de *Une mort très douce*, de Simone de Beauvoir

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