

**BACCALAURÉATS GÉNÉRAL ET TECHNOLOGIQUE**  
**SESSION 2014**

ÉPREUVE SPÉCIFIQUE MENTION « SECTION EUROPÉENNE OU DE LANGUE ORIENTALE »

Académies de Paris – Créteil – Versailles

**Binôme : Anglais / SES**

Sujet n°1

**Thème : Comment rendre compte de la mobilité sociale**

**Document:** Social mobility in India

Three months ago the young boy left home and entered a highly competitive cram<sup>1</sup> school. If he does well, it will propel him up the Indian social ladder.

His target, the golden ticket of this country's educational system: Acceptance to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT).

- 5 His father is illiterate. His mother never finished high school. In a country obsessed with status and bloodlines, he is from a caste officially termed an "Other Backward Class".

For generations, there was little surprise about who got in.

India is a nation where the concept of social mobility barely existed until the last two decades.

The IITs fit right in, as enclaves of the urban, the middle-class and the high-caste.

- 10 Over the past two decades, however, cracks have developed in India's centuries-old social system, forced open by one of the world's strongest economies.

Today, the economy is growing at nearly 9 percent. Tens of millions of villagers are pouring into cities for better-paying jobs. A few *dalits*, as India's lowest-caste "untouchables" are now known, have reached corporate boardrooms.

- 15 In many ways, India has become a grand contradiction: A rapidly changing country where social mobility is possible but still hobbled<sup>2</sup> by deeply ingrained class attitudes.

*China Daily* 10/26/2010 page10

**Questions:**

1. What is social mobility?
2. Explain the underlined sentence.
3. Is it easy to climb the social ladder in India and why?

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<sup>1</sup> To cram : to study a subject intensively especially for an examination

<sup>2</sup> To hobble : to move along with difficulty