

Epreuve écrite

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2006

Section: A

Branche: ANGLAIS / Textes connus

Nom et prénom du candidat

PART A : GUIDED COMPREHENSION (30 marks)

5 'I avoided a vast artificial hole somebody had been digging on the slope, the purpose of which I found it impossible to divine. It wasn't a quarry or a sandpit, anyhow. It was just a hole. It might have been connected with the philanthropic desire of giving the criminals something to do. I don't know. Then I nearly fell into a very narrow ravine, almost no more than a scar in the hillside. I discovered that a lot of imported drainage-pipes for the settlement had been tumbled in there. There wasn't one that was not broken. It was a wanton smash-up. At last I got under the trees. My purpose was to stroll into the shade for a moment; but no sooner within than it seemed to me that I had stepped into the gloomy circle of some Inferno. The rapids were near, and an uninterrupted, uniform, head-long, rushing noise filled the mournful stillness of the grove, where not a breath stirred, not a leaf moved, with a mysterious sound – as though the tearing pace of the launched earth had suddenly become audible.

10
15 'Black shapes crouched, lay, sat between the trees, leaning against the trunks, clinging to the earth, half coming out, half effaced within the dim light, in all the attitudes of pain, abandonment, and despair. Another mine on the cliff went off, followed by a slight shudder of the soil under my feet. The work was going on. The work! And this was the place where some of the helpers had withdrawn to die.

from HEART OF DARKNESS (260 words)

Answer the following questions :

- 1) Briefly situate the above passage in the novel. (3 marks)
- 2) Explain in detail the discovery the narrator makes in this passage. (7 marks)
- 3) Comment on the style of this passage. (5 marks)
- 4) What moral message do you think the author is trying to convey in this passage ? (5 marks)
- 5) How typical is the narrator's impression of the natives in this passage compared to other occasions in which they appear ? (10 marks)

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PART B : DEVELOPMENT ESSAY (30 marks)

MACBETH

- ▶ Choose **one** of the following topics.
- ▶ Use between 300 and 400 words (except for quotations).
- ▶ Indicate the number of words used.
- ▶ Give your essay a clear, logical structure.
- ▶ Refer to specific scenes to illustrate your arguments.

Topic I. Analyse the function of the witches in '*Macbeth*'. To what extent can they be made responsible for Macbeth's downfall ?

Topic II. Discuss the relationship between Banquo and Macbeth in the light of the following comment :

'To the audience Banquo stands as a measure of normality against which the lack of balance in the mind of the tragic hero can be measured. To Macbeth he is as it were an embodied conscience, not to be stilled even by death.' (Stanley Wells)