

## Epreuve écrite

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2007

Section: A

Branche: Anglais / texte connu

Numéro d'ordre du candidat

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### 1. GUIDED COMPREHENSION

(30 marks)

#### **HEART OF DARKNESS**

Looking past that mad helmsman, who was shaking the empty rifle and yelling at the shore, I saw vague forms of men running bent double, leaping, gliding, distinct, incomplete, evanescent. Something big appeared in the air before the shutter, the rifle went overboard, and the man stepped back swiftly, looked at me over his shoulder in an extraordinary, profound, familiar manner, and fell upon my feet. The side of his head hit the wheel twice, and the end of what appeared a long cane clattered round and knocked over a little camp-stool. It looked as though after wrenching that thing from somebody ashore he had lost his balance in the effort. The thin smoke had blown away, we were clear of the snag, and looking ahead I could see that in another hundred yards or so I would be free to sheer off, away from the bank; but my feet felt so very warm and wet that I had to look down. The man had rolled on his back and stared straight up at me; both his hands clutched that cane. It was the shaft of a spear that, either thrown or lunged through the opening, had caught him in the side just below the ribs; the blade had gone in out of sight, after making a frightful gash; my shoes were full; a pool of blood lay very still, gleaming dark-red under the wheel; his eyes shone with an amazing lustre. The fusillade burst out again. He looked at me anxiously, gripping the spear like something precious, with an air of being afraid I would try to take it away from him. I had to make an effort to free my eyes from his gaze and attend to the steering.

(291 words)

1. Why did the steamboat come under attack? (6 marks)
2. What will stop the shooting? (2 marks)
3. *I had to make an effort to free my eyes from his gaze...* Explain the importance of this gaze. (6 marks)
4. Comment on the style of this passage. (6 marks)
5. Does Marlow feel closer to the other white men on board or to the native crew? Explain. (10 marks)

### 2. DEVELOPMENT ESSAY

(30 marks)

Choose either of the following topics. Use between 300 and 400 words (except for quotations) and do not forget to indicate the number of words you have used!

1. *Nought's had, all's spent,  
Where our desire is got without content:*  
Why could Macbeth and Lady Macbeth not enjoy the crown, as they had expected to?
2. Duncan, Macbeth, Malcolm – which of them possesses the royal virtues needed to turn Scotland into a stable and prosperous country?