

Epreuve écrite

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2008

Section: A

Branche: Anglais (texte connu)

Numéro d'ordre du candidat

I. HEART OF DARKNESS (30 marks)

Poor fool! If he had only left that shutter alone. He had no restraint, no restraint – just like Kurtz – a tree swayed by the wind. As soon as I had put on a dry pair of slippers, I dragged him out, after first jerking the spear out of his side, which operation I confess I performed with my eyes shut tight. His heels leaped together over the little doorstep; his shoulders were pressed to my breast; I hugged him from behind desperately. Oh! he was heavy, heavy; heavier than any man on earth, I should imagine. Then without much ado I tipped him overboard. The current snatched him as though he had been a wisp of grass, I saw the body roll over twice before I lost sight of him for ever. All the pilgrims and the manager were then congregated on the awning-deck about the pilot-house, chattering at each other like a flock of excited magpies, and there was a scandalised murmur at my heartless promptitude. What they wanted to keep that body hanging about for I can't guess. Embalm it, maybe. But I had also heard another, and a very ominous, murmur on the deck below. My friends the woodcutters were likewise scandalised, and with a better show of reason – though I admit that the reason itself was quite inadmissible. Oh, quite! I had made up my mind that if my late helmsman was to be eaten, the fishes alone should have him. He had been a very second-rate helmsman while alive, but now he was dead he might have become a first-class temptation, and possibly cause some startling trouble. Besides, I was anxious to take the wheel, the man in the pink pyjamas showing himself a hopeless duffer at the business.

a. Situate the extract, also commenting on the characteristic tone used by the narrator. (6 marks)

b. What do the narrator's reasons for throwing the dead man's body overboard reveal about his relationship with the late helmsman on the one hand and with the manager, the "pilgrims" and the "woodcutters" on the other? (10 marks)

c. According to the narrator, the helmsman and Kurtz " had no restraint".

Demonstrate the vital role of restraint as illustrated in the destinies of individual characters. (14 marks)

Do not forget to back up your answers with close reference to the novel.

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II. MACBETH (30 marks)

Choose either question A or B.

Question A

ALL

*The weird sisters, hand in hand,
Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go about, about:
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,
And thrice again, to make up nine.
Peace! – the charm's wound up.*

Enter Macbeth and Banquo

Act I, 3

This passage, introducing Macbeth's first meeting with the Weird Sisters, seems to indicate that they are preparing to put an evil spell on him.

Discuss the claim that Macbeth can thus be regarded as the victim of the Weird Sisters and their sinister workings.

OR

Question B

MALCOLM

*[...] calling home our exiled friends abroad,
That fled the snares of watchful tyranny;
Producing forth the cruel ministers
Of this dead butcher, and his fiend-like queen*

In his closing speech in Act Five, Malcolm refers to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth as "this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen".

Does Malcolm's presentation do justice to Macbeth and his wife?

Back up your answers with close reference to the play. Your essays should be clearly structured and kept between 300 – 400 words, quotations excluded.

****Do not forget to indicate the number of words used.***