

Epreuve écrite

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2007

Section: A

Branche: Anglais /Textes connus

Numéro d'ordre du candidat

Part I : Guided comprehension (30 m)

It appears these niggers do bury the tusks sometimes – but evidently they couldn't bury this parcel deep enough to save the gifted Mr. Kurtz from his fate. We filled the steamboat with it, and had to pile a lot on the deck. Thus he could see and enjoy, because the appreciation of this favour had remained with him to the last. You should have heard him say, 'My ivory.' Oh yes, I heard him. 'My Intended, my ivory, my station, my river, my –' everything belonged to him. It made me hold my breath in expectation of hearing the wilderness burst into a prodigious peal of laughter..... Everything belonged to him – but that was a trifle. The thing was to know what he belonged to, how many powers of darkness claimed him for their own. That was the reflection that made you creepy all over. It was impossible – it was not good for one either – trying to imagine. He had taken a high seat amongst the devils of the land – I mean literally. You can't understand. How could you? – with solid pavement under your feet, surrounded by kind neighbours ready to cheer you or to fall on you, stepping delicately between the butcher and the policeman, in the holy terror of scandal and gallows and lunatic asylums – how can you imagine what particular region of the first ages a man's untrammelled feet may take him into by the way of solitude – utter solitude without a policeman – by the way of silence – utter silence, where no warning voice of a kind neighbour can be heard whispering of public opinion? These little things make all the great difference. When they are gone you must fall back upon your own innate strength, upon your own capacity for faithfulness. (298 words)

Answer the following questions :

- 1) By opposing Kurtz's past life to his present situation, explain the underlying irony in the recurring expression '*the gifted Mr. Kurtz*'. (8)
- 2) '*Many powers of darkness claimed him for their own.*' Account for the impact of the wilderness on Kurtz and include information from the novel as a whole. (8)
- 3) Analyse – with close reference to this excerpt – the situation of the white man in his own environment and that of Kurtz in the African jungle. (8)
- 4) What are – according to Marlow - the only redeeming factors to resist the impact of the green inferno? How can Marlow 'save' himself? (6)

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Part II : Development Essay (30 m)

Discuss one of the following statements:

- 1) 'Palpable dangers leave him (Macbeth) unmoved or fill him with fire ... What appals him is always the image of his own guilty heart or bloody deed.' (A.C. Bradley, *Shakespearean Tragedy*)
- 2) 'As soon as Duncan's murder is a public fact, Lady Macbeth begins to lose her place in society and her position at home.' (Joan Larsen Klein, *Lady Macbeth : Infirm of Purpose*)

palpable : easily and clearly noticed

to appal : to shock, (to frighten)

- Use between 300 and 400 words and indicate the number of words used.
- Your essay must reveal a clear logical structure (introduction, development, conclusion).
- Refer to specific scenes to illustrate the development section of your essay.