The journey of mankind has been a long and arduous path, without the accomplishment of actually discovering the meaning of life. In the novel Candide, the young noble travels around the world in order to answer a single question, "Is this the best of all possible worlds?"

Even as the world seems to be against him, Candide is unable to comprehend why this world should not be the best of all possible worlds. Why would God create a world that is not the best possible? Candide continues to travel around the world intent upon finding the answer to the age-old question.

Upon being kicked out of his castle due to his love, Candide begins his painful journey to answer the pressing question, why? At first he cannot see the reason for being kicked out of his castle, and upon being drafted into a war he could not see the reason for such carnage and death. Throughout all of these adventures he is constantly parted and reunited with old friends and acquaintances. Perhaps the time he was happiest was when he found himself in the mythical land of El Dorado, where mud is gold, and rocks are precious gems. This is perhaps the place where Candide had found the model society, a place where greed and lust did not exist. But ultimately he was not satisfied, and the greed he had brought with him from the outside forced him to leave El Dorado and continue.
his hopeless search. He figured that perhaps once he had
found his beloved Lady Conugal, happiness would be achieved
and the best of all possible worlds would be realized. But
upon their final reunion, Candide was disgusted to find what
age and years of labor had done to the beautiful lady
Conugal. Ultimately, Candide, Lady Conugal, and all of their companions
settled down to live peacefully, their long search over and
without success.

Candide's answer to the question of whether or not
this is the best of all possible worlds is cryptic, neither
answering nor dismissing. When asked this question, Candide
simply smiles and remarks, "we must tend our garden." After
searching the world, one would think that Candide had
found something else! However, perhaps he did find something
during his life-long quest. At the start of his journey
Candide seemed intent on discovering a Utopia, an entire
planet that was already at peace with itself and could not
possibly become any better. It took Candide his entire
life to discover that this is the best of all possible
worlds, but those who inhabit this world must work
to maintain it. By simply saying "we must tend our garden",
Candide tells the world what they must do, simply strive
to make each individual life the best possible. Some may
argue that Candide was only referring to himself, and had
only come to the conclusion that perfection is reached
Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

through selfish means. However what he means by “tending our garden”, is taking small, individual steps towards creating a better world. The message is amazingly Christ-like, not calling for massive action, but simple love and hospitality to be sown amongst human beings. Ultimately it is a very simple message, but through his life’s journey Candide was able to fully appreciate it.

The novel Candide does not offer the quick-and-easy answer to the meaning of life, or offer the path to paradise. Rather it reemphasizes the age-old lesson that for the best of all possible worlds to fully exist, all people must accept and love one another. With that accomplished the best of all possible worlds will exist. It is not an easy task to love, as Kahlil Gibran states in his poem The Prophet, loving also entails pain. Despite being opposite, the two are linked and absolutely vital to one another. Because of this tragic bond, massive change is impossible, doomed for failure from the beginning. But Candide’s method of each person “tending” his or her own garden, is the true gateway to the best of all possible worlds.
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain raises the central question "What does it mean to be free?" Twain explores this question throughout the novel by exploring the limits that slavery and civilization place upon the novel's characters.

At the beginning of the novel, neither Huck nor Jim are free. Though only Jim is legally enslaved, he is in effect enslaved by his father, who shows him no affection. Though he is only a servant, Pop in Huck's case and Jim's owner in Jim's case, and escape on a raft. Their adventures on and off the raft explore the chains that bind them and limit their freedom that are less obvious and stranger than the legal chains of black slavery and parental custody. It is only on the raft that Jim and Huck can build a friendship.
When in town or with other people such as the "King" and "Duke", Jim and Huckle must hide their feelings for each other because of society's conventions about race.

By the novel's end, both Jim and Huckle have been freed from the dominion of their respective "masters" by the death of these "masters", but they return to society. Jim is still restricted by society's discriminations against blacks and Huckle is restricted by the conventions of modern society, clothes and manners, against which he chafes. The two are free in one sense, but they are still imprisoned by society. Huckle even considers leaving again to go out west, showing evidence that he understands that he is not free.

By questioning the nature of freedom throughout the novel, Twain raises the question of the success of Huckle and Jim's journey. If they are not free at the end of the novel and the point of their journey was freedom, then have they succeeded? Twain's treatment of the question of the nature of freedom makes his novel...
truly a novel of the U.S., a country where we place so much emphasis on freedom, but still often find ourselves limited by society.
In the novel *Things Fall Apart*, the author, Chinua Achebe, introduces a society of traditional and contemporary beliefs that reflect their culture. The village of the story during the time period has its difference and consist of contrasting views, opinions, and characteristics about life. Achebe establishes the village's traditional prospects and makes them well known. Especially through the main character, Okonkwo, Okonkwo's stubborn attitude to prevent the village from diverging from its original standards and qualities develops the question. Does anything ever stay the same? Is relatively evident. His main goal in the novel is to prevent things from falling apart. This principle develops the question, does anything ever stay the same?

As time progresses throughout the novel, there are certain events that influence the resolution of the plot. In the beginning, the village knew their identity, but as time progressed, another society began to have influence...
on theirs. The cultural persuasions made Okonkwo upset & he fought for maintaining his ancestral traditions. The demeanor Okonkwo had to prevent change was very high & he was determined to succeed. He never believed that his village & his people would change. But as time gradually passed by, changes began to form. Whether they were small or major changes, they always happen. Achebe's use of cultural changes & development makes the work apprehendable to realize that things do change & never stay the same.