

**AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**2006 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)**

**Question 3**  
(Significant Journeys)

The score reflects the quality of the essay as a whole—its content, its style, its mechanics. Students are rewarded for what they do well. The score for an exceptionally well-written essay may be raised by 1 point above the otherwise appropriate score. In no case may a poorly written essay be scored higher than a 3.

- 9–8** These detailed, well-written essays identify a physical journey in a novel, play, or poem and explain persuasively how the journey contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole. Using apt and specific examples, they describe the journey well and argue cogently for its significance. These essays need not be flawless. Still, they exhibit the ability to analyze a literary work with understanding and insight, sustaining coherence and control over the whole discussion. The best essays will be written with exceptional maturity and sophistication.
- 7–6** These competent essays also identify a physical journey in a novel, play, or poem and discuss plausibly its contribution to the meaning of the work as a whole. These essays contain good insights, but their analysis is less thorough, less perceptive, or less specific than the best essays. References to the text may be fewer or less aptly chosen, and they are sometimes briefer or less incisive. Their arguments are clear, but the writing does not show the same maturity or control as the 9–8 essays.
- 5** These essays are characterized by superficiality. They refer to a physical journey and discuss its significance, but they lack sufficient depth or development. They may rely on unsubstantiated generalization or plot summary. They may choose a less appropriate work or fail to explain the journey’s significance sufficiently. While accurate in a general way, these essays may be marred by unsophisticated thinking or immature writing.
- 4–3** These lower-half essays reveal incomplete or oversimplified understanding of the work or discuss an inappropriate journey in it. They may fail to link the journey to the work as a whole or may distort the idea of a journey to fit something that isn’t one. Their assertions may be implausible, irrelevant, or simply mistaken. They may rely almost entirely on plot summary. Often wordy and repetitious, the writing may lack control or coherence and may contain recurrent stylistic flaws. Essays that contain significant misreading and/or unusually inept writing should be scored a 3.
- 2–1** These essays compound the weaknesses of essays in the 4–3 range. They may seriously misread the text or fail to understand the question. Often they are unacceptably brief. While some attempt is made to answer the question, these essays contain little clarity, organization, or support from the text. They may be poorly written on several counts and contain distracting errors in grammar and mechanics. Essays with little coherent writing or discussion of the text should be scored a 1.
- 0** These essays make no more than a reference to the task.
- These essays either are left blank or are completely off topic.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

3

3A,

A central theme in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* is a journey, both physical and philosophical, of its narrator, Marlowe. Marlowe journeys by steamer upriver ~~the~~ to the Inner Station, where Kurtz's trading post lies in the heart of the dark African jungle. However, in the process of traveling through the ivory-trading Company's stations deeper into the wilderness, Marlowe ~~increases~~ increasingly comes into ~~the~~ contact with the corruption and savagery of mankind when unfettered and empowered.

Marlowe begins his narrative in the novel by describing how he applied for the job to join the ivory traders of the Company in Africa. He starts his journey at the headquarters in Belgium, which is described as a "white sepulchre," desolate and pale like a tomb. The paleness of the people in the Company is a recurring motif that Marlowe will encounter again in Africa; he describes them as "flabby devils." Two women dressed in black at the Company headquarters greet him and send him off, reminiscent of the mythological Fates who determine the deaths of men since those whom the women meet are likely to perish in the dark jungles. This commencement of Marlowe's journey is covered ~~with~~ with an ~~ominous~~ mood of foreboding and foreshadows the horrors he will see at the stations.

As Marlowe journeys closer to the Inner Station once he reaches Africa, he is surrounded by the senseless enslavement of the natives and the brooding ~~with~~ patience of ~~many~~ idle workers and of nature around him. He eventually repairs his steamer boat and sails upriver on a snakelike river into the heart of the jungle, an image central to the novel's

themes. The primordial power of the wilderness around him suggests to him that he is sailing back in time to the "night of first ages." This brings to mind a passage from the beginning of the book when Marlowe says that London, too, "was one of the dark places of the earth." By this he means that in the "night of first ages," ~~the~~ the land where London is now was also wilderness and nature had to be shackled and conquered by explorers who were as power-hungry as the Company men ~~were~~ had become after leaving behind their civilization. Marlowe sees this happening again in Africa, and also sees how the natives behave when they have never been "civilized." Marlowe encounters the natives dancing wildly to drums while sailing upriver, and feels an innate pull within himself to join them and release his darker savage side.

His journey to Kurtz's inner station is a symbolic, inner journey as well, casting off the "rags" of civilized law and propriety and facing his inner darkness with "his own stuff."

Marlowe's arrival at his goal is also the climax of the novel in his confrontation with Kurtz. Kurtz was a "product of all of Europe's" ideals, yet he has now become a culmination of all the suppressed savagery and raw power that the jungle has released in him. In reaching the Inner Station and confronting Kurtz, Marlowe also comes to a deeper understanding of his own "heart of darkness" with Kurtz's pronouncement ~~at~~ upon his life of, "the horror, the horror." Marlowe's journey creates a change within himself, and to those he narrates his story to as well: the part that the characters sit in ~~before~~ now appears dark.

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Taking a bus ride from the city into the rural countryside is usually just a change of scene for most people. In Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest, however, the main theme of the story involves this physical journey. The two bachelors, Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, take frequent trips from the city ~~into~~ to the countryside in order to live two lives. Wilde's play satirizes the two-faced attitude of Victorian society. Wilde uses the bachelors to constitute Victorian society's hypocrisy and the journey from city to countryside serves as a journey from one life into another.

~~Both~~ Jack ~~and~~ Algernon leads <sup>a</sup> respectable ~~life~~ <sup>life</sup> full of virtue and ~~is~~ earnestness in the countryside. Jack is seen as a guardian and mature adult by his niece, Cecily and her tutor, Miss Prism. To escape the boredom and seriousness of this life, Jack invents a younger brother called Ernest, who lives in London and frequently gets into trouble. Jack leaves for London quite often to keep an eye on "Ernest" but more specifically to act frivolously and meet his lover, Gwendolen. Ironically, Jack must pretend to be "Ernest" with Gwendolen because of her infatuation with the name. Jack lies to both Cecily and Gwendolen ~~of~~ about his true nature, yet pretends to be both virtuous and frivolous. Jack represents the attitude of Victorian

society, which constantly contradicted itself by its façade of respectability. Jack's journey from the ~~city to the countryside~~ <sup>countryside to the city</sup> shows the transition between his double-life.

Algernon, similarly leads a double-life by escaping social obligations in the city and going into the countryside. He ~~also~~ creates a fictional friend called "Bunbury," whom he frequently visits to escape dinner<sup>s</sup> with his aunt, Lady Bracknell.

Wilde shows the underlying contempt for Victorian propriety especially through Algernon, who thrives in frivolosity. Despite Victorian society's emphasis on propriety, many contradicted this façade by leading double-~~if~~ lives like Algernon.

Wilde directly satirized Victorian society's hypocrisy through the bachelors' ~~double~~ double-lives.

The physical journey played a significant role by showing the transition of one life into another.

Jack and Algernon created fictional characters as an excuse for this journey. This double-life represented the dual sides to Victorian society to further demonstrate Wilde's criticism on its hypocrisy.

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It is obvious that the physical journey from one location in a novel or play will have some, if not great impact of the character/s in the story. Some way that the journey may have a significance is in the meaning of each location and how each of these locations affect those in it. In the novel entitled Native Son by Richard Wright, such journey with a significance in location takes place, and how it emphasizes the theme of racial oppression. Through a switch of location in various parts of the story, the meaning of each location adds to the work as a whole.

The neighborhood in which the ~~the~~ colored population lives is meant to represent hardship and oppression ~~re~~ throughout the novel. This is where the story began, and introduced ~~the~~ the feelings of those residing in it. Bigger Thomas (main character) and his friends continually express their frustration with society and how their lives are being repressed by social segregation. The tendency of criminal and violent behavior along with the frustration keeps recurring, even as towards the end of the novel he is running from the police. In the physical description of decay, <sup>persecutions</sup> and the feelings expressed everytime action takes place in this setting, it becomes obvious that the colored neighborhood represents the frustrations and oppressions in the novel.

The white neighborhood represents an easy life full of opportunity. Eventhough Bigger does not let down his guard that he has built up from living in the colored neighborhood, he expresses himself as being much happier and ~~much more~~ becomes much more relaxed than he was. The houses themselves are said to be all white, which is in literature a pure color, and in this case represents good living. The houses

are all big and ~~big~~ everyone owns a car. This illustrates the wealth brought on by opportunity. Bigger even gets treated with respect, and earns money besides the provided shelter and food which he would usually struggle for. It is only when ~~he~~ under pressure that he leaves this society and returns to the colored neighborhood. So clearly opportunity is the main attribute of the white society.

Lastly, there's the jail in which Bigger spends his last days that represent hopelessness. In jail, it is said that Bigger had given up on everything, and even denounced hope of seeing anybody. When visited by a priest, Bigger became enraged because he knew there was nothing to live for and the priest was giving him false hopes. The condition of Bigger is evident of the ~~very~~ hopeless significance of jail in the novel.

To conclude, it is evident that the physical relocation of ~~the~~ Bigger had a tremendous effect on the character and the story as a whole. The colored neighborhood represented oppression, the white neighborhood represented opportunity, and jail represented hopelessness. This is just one example on how different locations can have a major impact on a story and the feelings of characters.

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**AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
2006 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)**

**Question 3**

**Sample: 3A**

**Score: 8**

This sophisticated essay begins with a very well-focused initial paragraph establishing the connection between Marlowe's literal journey in *Heart of Darkness* and his increasingly close "contact with the corruption and savagery of mankind when unfettered and empowered." The concise and resourceful writing moves easily between abstraction and specific examples, including apt quotations: "'white[d] sepulchre,'" "'one of the dark places of the earth,'" "'his own stuff.'" The student writes an especially strong third paragraph developing the relation between the "snakelike river" in Africa, the novel's opening scene in London on the Thames, and the history of "power-hungry" imperialists. This is not to say that the response is without flaw. The essay's second paragraph focuses only on foreshadowings of what the physical, moral, and psychological journey will be, and its last paragraph rather hastily sums up Marlowe's "deeper understanding" without specifying what that is or how he changes. Still, these are minor problems in an otherwise persuasive essay.

**Sample: 3B**

**Score: 6**

This essay on *The Importance of Being Earnest* is immediately clear about the physical journeys in the work and their larger implications in the play's satire. The explanation of the plot is admirably clear as well and helps to substantiate the meaning of the double lives adopted by both Jack and Algernon. While the discussion shows a strong grasp of the play's issues, they are left undeveloped, and almost no details of the action are mentioned, no memorable moments are singled out, and no quotations are given to help characterize the satire as witty or funny or complex. The student's claim about Wilde's "underlying contempt for Victorian propriety" is promising, but no persuasive detail emerges to support this claim.

**Sample: 3C**

**Score: 4**

The student tries to change the question about a journey into one about location or neighborhood. What follows is a reductive account of racial oppression in *Native Son*, categorized in three locations: "colored" neighborhoods associated with oppression and frustration; white neighborhoods associated with opportunity; and the jail where Bigger Thomas ends up, associated with hopelessness. Even if the action of the novel *could* be described as Bigger's journey from one to the other of these places, this argument would still be oversimplified, a distortion of the novel, and unpersuasive. The writing is serviceable but very repetitious and entirely lacking in persuasive detail or any deeper insight.