

DISCOVERY THESES

A

Discoveries offer the individual opportunities to re-affirm or challenge their beliefs about themselves and the world around them. How accurately does this statement reflect the ideas represented in your prescribed text and ONE other related text of your own choosing?

A re-evaluated worldview can be realised through an embracing of the unknown. Physically displaced from a familiar context, the individual is able to exist experimentally, experiencing new and confronting lifestyles. In this state, relinquished from the restrictions of imposed social mores, one may access a newfound reflective capacity that reaffirms or recalibrates personal assumptions and values. As long as the individual is, or becomes, broadly dedicated to this process, a diverse range of catalyzing experiences will invoke critical reflection, delivering a profound understanding of self, and a transformed worldview. Ernesto 'Che' Guevara's memoir, *The Motorcycle Diaries*, shows how the openness of discovery gives room for staggered personal growth, culminating in a political manifesto. Similarly, in Julian Schnabel's *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, discovery is revealed as a stimulant for a greater appreciation of individual spirituality, lending to greater vitality in one's relationships with others.

B

Discoveries offer the individual opportunities to reaffirm or challenge their beliefs about themselves and the world

around them.

How accurately does this statement reflect the ideas represented in your prescribed text and ONE other related text of your own choosing.

Discovery is an ongoing process through which personal relationships and experiences allow for greater insights into one's self and a re-evaluation of perceptions. As such, this process requires a highly developed self awareness, which may be initiated through a process of deliberate and careful planning, ultimately stimulating new ideas and gaining insight into one's worldview and commitment. Indeed, the emergence of the personal and emotional may act as catalysts for one's discovery. A

commentary upon the political revelation of hidden aspects of social reality, Ernesto 'Che' Guevara's memoir *The Motorcycle Diaries* expounds upon the plight of the proletariat manipulated with promises of social justice, allowing for a clearer interpretation into the process of discovery in the form political awakening. Similarly, Francis Coppola's 1979 film *Apocalypse Now* illustrates the duplicity of western imperialism, and portrays the process of discovery to be a harrowing and highly challenging experience, even ultimately destructive. Ultimately, both composers illustrate the capacity for a process of discovery to re-affirm or challenge beliefs of the individual, offering ramifications towards broader society, as such, the arena in which discovery manifests is strictly subjective to the nature of the individual.

C

While discoveries can be deliberately sought out, they often occur unexpectedly.

Discovery emerges from a *conscious* desire to elevate perspectives. But only those *receptive* to the *unexpected* can grasp the key wisdom the process imparts - an engagement with reality that clarifies purpose and deepens self-knowledge. Che Guevara's memoir *The Motorcycle Diaries* portrays discovery as an empowering and regenerative process, eliciting unforeseen political and spiritual awakenings. Similarly, Hermann Hesse's novel *Siddhartha* reveals discovery's capacity to reconcile the Self with the unity of nature, stressing the role of both expected and spontaneous catalysts in bringing about enlightenment.

D

Discovery derives from a conscious desire to challenge or re-evaluate perspectives. Divorcing one from the familiar, the process entails a plunge into the unknown - its key wisdoms only taking root in those receptive to the unexpected. While individuals may falter at obstacles to discovery, the regenerative capacity of the journey ensures every lapse engages one more richly with reality and the human condition - catalysing a negotiation of one's place in the world that transforms and elevates perceptions, clarifies purpose and deepens self-knowledge. Ernesto Che Guevara's 1952 memoir *The Motorcycle Diaries* portrays discovery on his South American travels as a complex yet empowering mechanism, instigating both a sought-after political awakening and an unforeseen spiritual reconsideration. Similarly, in his 1922 novel *Siddhartha*, a reworking of the Buddha tale, Hermann Hesse demonstrates the capacity of the spontaneous to enrich the deliberate pursuit of self-discovery, prompting a lived immersion in the worldly that informs and contributes to one's enlightenment. Ultimately, both texts examine the complexities of the process and its transformative impacts on the individual.

E

Discovery is curiosity, a deliberate exploration of the

unknown that may involve a displacement from the familiar. This displacement facilitates receptivity for unanticipated discoveries, however the unexpected also developed the capacity to provide clarity for planned discoveries. The unexpected geographical, emotional and political catalysts provide a staggered developmental process, which redefines the individual's perspectives.

Ernesto 'Che' Guevara reveals, through his memoir *The Motorcycle Diaries*, discovery's capacity to enable the maturation of a political manifesto. Similarly, in his film *Pan's Labyrinth*, Guillermo Del Toro explores discovery as a mechanism for developing awareness of the Spanish revolution, coupled with the role of childhood within a harsh adult reality.

Inevitably both texts explore the aptitude of discovery to stimulate a developmental process by which the relationship between the individual and their political context is revealed and reformed beyond the expected.

F (i)

Discovery is an erratic and sustained process of revelation caused by a singular catalysing event of profound relevance to the individual, prompting an enlightenment of purpose due to a redefining of perspective. These catalysts can be encountered unexpectedly despite the pursuit of discovery being a deliberate action, elucidating that the two facets are not mutually exclusive within the process, but rather the deliberate facilitates the unexpected.

Within Che Guevara's autobiographical motorcycle diaries, the process of discovery is shown to be catalysed by an exposure to emotionally unsettling stimuli, evoking a realisation on his part about the depravity inherent in the ingrained societal ideals of Western culture. Joseph Conrad's contrasting depictions of the effect of the primal and uncivilised Africa upon both Marlow and

Kurtz in *Heart of Darkness* and the radically different paradigms that the two men adopt reveal how the deliberate application of the unexpected revelations is crucial in defining the outcome of the process. While the initial phase of discovery, being the singular catalysing event arising from a dislocation from a prior position of perception is consistent across all individual's experiences of discovery, the ultimate effect of discovery varies considerably depending on the deliberate utilisation of the new knowledge.

F (ii)

Discovery is an erratic and sustained process of revelation caused by a singular catalysing event of profound relevance to the individual, prompting an enlightenment of purpose due to redefining of perspective. The catalyst for discovery originates from the world around the individual, evoking an emotional response, however it is through internal deliberation that the individual's perception might be redefined, ultimately constructing a resolution to action. Within Che Guevara's autobiographical motorcycle diaries, the process of discovery originates from an exposure to emotionally unsettling stimuli, evoking a realisation on his part about the depravity inherent in the ingrained ideals of Western culture. Joseph Conrad presents a manifold depiction of

discovery through the contrasting effects of the primal and uncivilised Africa on Marlow and Kurtz in Heart of Darkness. In doing so Conrad reveals his perception that the resolution of discovery is ultimately contingent on the mindset of the individual, and that the same catalyst can lead to alternate outcomes. Both texts elevate the role that the divorce from the individual's context plays in facilitating the encounter with the catalyst that triggers the personal dilemma, however the process of dislocation is often accompanied by an element of fear as the individual must depart from what they know. Guevara's separation from his Bourgeois upbringing and subsequent encounter with the impoverished population of South America erodes his existing perception and thereby allows him to develop an alternate world view and purpose. Similarly, Conrad utilises the primal Africa to expose the savagery of the prevailing political ideology of his Victorian colonial context. Discovery originates from an exposure to unexpected situations leading to an internal dilemma, however for the discovery to resonate the individual must articulate their change in perception and ultimately feel a call to act upon their new moral paradigm.

G

'Discovery is dependent on the mindset of the individual'

Evaluate this statement in light of your study of discovery.

The physical and psychological displacement of an individual from the rigidity of everyday processes and the subsequently original experiences and relationships that this displacement instigates allows the entry of an individual into a mindset that is more conducive to

discovery. Through his collection of memoirs, Ernesto 'Che' Guevara enriches the responder with an understanding of the evolving process that discovery is, through the description of the experiences and relationships that he was exposed to during his travels throughout South America in the 1950's. The role of this experience of discovery in his construction of political values and ideas contributed to an understanding of discovery as a fundamentally formative and enriching process. Conrad's novella, 'Heart of Darkness' depicts a protagonist's physical and psychological journey of discovery, dually suggesting the immoral nature of imperialistic intentions and revealing the inherent 'darkness' that pervades mankind. Discovery is not an endpoint, but an experience that serves as a means of enriching and broadening the worldview of an individual, resulting ultimately in a collection of ideas that inform changes in the individual's judgement, action and role in the human experience.

H

Discovery is not a singular moment of epiphanic realisation, but rather a constant process encapsulating the interplay of individual values against an experience of the unknown. Indeed, discovery is dependent on both individual and contextual values, as well as the extent of personal engagement with the process, the role of the individual therefore vital in determining its worth. It is only through a consistent engagement and reflection that the discovery can truly affect change, becoming self-perpetuating and inviting further discoveries. In Guevara's 19XX Motorcycle Diaries, an initial resistance to the discovery process born of a privileged lifestyle is overcome by increasingly intimate experiences of poverty, informing broader political discoveries. By contrast, Adamov's 1953 absurdist play Professor

Taranne (Taranne) presents an absolute denial of overwhelming catalysts and challenges to personal values, leading to a paralysis of identity. However, Roethke's 19XX poem In a Dark Time (Dark Time) offers an absolute embracement of the discovery process, as the abandonment of previous identity allows a reforging of personal values. Discovery is not guaranteed; it is a challenge to personal values that must be engaged with and reflected upon so as to allow genuine change.

Discovery is almost paradoxical, as you must seek that which you do not yet know exists. A deliberate openness towards discovery creates a receptive mind that can accept the unexpected, allowing one to go beyond their expectation. Discoveries are often unexpected as they require this defamiliarising experience of the unknown to broaden their perspectives. In Che Guevara's memoir Motorcycle Diaries, discovery transcends emotional experiences into a political revelation, while Theodore Roethke's In a Dark Time presents discovery as a means to recreate identity.

I

