Name:
AP English Literature and Composition Heart of Darkness Test
Part I: Identify six of the following eight quotations, making sure to clearly explain the significance and show the relevance of the each to the themes and ideas of the novel. Specify the speaker and/or the person to whom the quotation refers as well.
1. "'Then I noticed a small sketch in oils, on a panel, representing a woman, draped and blindfolded, carrying a lighted torch. The background was a sombre—almost black. The movement of the woman was stately, and the effect of the torch-light on the face was sinister."
2. "'To tear treasure out of the bowels of the land was their desire, with no more moral purpose at the back of it than there is in burglars breaking into a safe. Who paid the expenses of the noble enterprise I don't know; but was the leader of that lot."

3.	""He electrified large meetings. He had faith—don't you see?—he had the faith. He could get himself to believe anything—anything. He would have been a splendid leader of an extreme party.""
4.	"'That's backbone. His starched collars and got-up shirt-fronts were achievements of character. He had been out nearly three years."

5.	"The excellent woman, living right in the rush of all that humbug, got carried off her feet. She talked about "weaning those ignorant millions from their horrid ways," till, upon my word, she made me quite uncomfortable."
6.	"'I don't want to bother you much with what happened to me personally,' he began, showing in this remark the weakness of many tellers of tales who seem so often unaware of what their audience would best like to hear."

7.	"I pulled the string of the whistle, and I did this because I saw the pilgrims on deck getting out their rifles with an air of anticipating a jolly lark Only the barbarous and superb woman did not so much as flinch and stretched tragically her bare arms after us over the sombre and glittering river."
8.	"I missed him even while his body was still lying in the pilot-house. Perhaps you will think it passing strange, this regret for a savage who was of no more account than a grain of sand in a black Sahara."

Part II:

On the AP paper provided, answer both of the following questions in a well-organized essay.

- 1. An effective literary work does not merely stop or cease; it concludes. In the view of some critics, a work that does not provide the pleasure of significant "closure" has terminated with an artistic fault. A satisfactory ending is not, however, always conclusive in every sense; significant closure may require the reader to abide ambiguity and uncertainty. Discuss the ending of *Heart of Darkness*. Explain precisely how and why the ending appropriately or inappropriately concludes the work. Do not merely summarize the plot; instead discuss the significance of the ending to the theme and meaning of the work.
- 2. In some works of literature, a character who appears briefly, or does not appear at all, is a significant presence. Discuss how such a character functions in *Heart of Darkness*. You may wish to discuss how the character affects action, theme, or the development of other characters.