The Stages of Discovery

Stage One: Departure

This initial stage in the process of discovery is all about the individual departing from the familiar and venturing from the ordinary into the extraordinary.

When studying your prescribed and related texts, think about the following:

- What has motivated this departure? Has it been:
  - A choice, prompted by a yearning or desire to discover?
  - Prompted by an impetus?
  - Prompted by circumstance or necessity?
- The influence of the individual’s formative context:
  - What are their initial perceptions of self?
  - What are their initial perception of the world around them?
- The values and attitudes the individual carries with them into new worlds, which will influence their perceptions of what they discover and its significance – their “baggage”.

Stage Two: Significant Experiences

After their departure into the unknown, the individual goes through a number of important experiences. These are the experiences which stay with the individual and come to characterise their discoveries.

When studying your prescribed and related texts, think about the following:

- The significance of a first time discovery for the individual.
- The significance of rediscovery for the individual.
- The ways in which these experiences are meaningful for the individual. Are they:
  - Emotionally moving?
  - Creatively inspiring?
  - Intellectually challenging?
  - Physically challenging?
  - Spiritually awakening?
- The nature of these experiences. Does the individual find their experiences of discovery to be:
  - Confronting?
  - Provocative?
  - Challenging?
  - Transformative?
  - Cathartic?
**Stage Three: Revelation or Epiphany**

Experiences of discovery often lead the individual to important realisations.

When studying your prescribed and related texts, think about the following:

- What new values, ideas or beliefs lead the individual to a significant revelation?
- Have the individual’s experiences led them to speculate about future possibilities?
- Have the individual’s experiences led them to a new perception of themselves and/or others?
- Has the individual come to re-evaluate or reconsider their values and attitudes as a consequence of exposure to or discourse with conflicting or alternative perspectives and ways of thinking?
- What is the individual’s moment of anagnorisis? Aristotle defined this as “a change from ignorance to knowledge” or a moment of clarity.

**Stage Four: Transformation**

This final stage in the process of discovery reveals the impact of discoveries on the individual – the most significant of which is change or transformation.

When studying your prescribed and related texts, think about the following:

- In what ways has the individual been transformed as a consequence of their experiences of discovery?
- In what ways is the individual reshaped or transformed emotionally, creatively, intellectually, physically or spiritually?
- In what ways are individuals affected differently by their experiences of discovery?
- What are the short-term impacts, consequences or ramifications of discovery?
- What are the long-term impacts, consequences or ramifications of discovery?
- What has been the impact of the denouement/coda of the text(s) on you, as a responder?
- Have your assumptions/ideas/beliefs been affirmed or challenged by studying the text(s)?
- Through experiencing the discoveries of others vicariously, how have your perceptions of yourself and the world been transformed?

On the following page is a visual representation of these stages of the process of discovery.