

"Hotel California" – The Eagles

Name: _____

On a dark desert highway, cool wind in my hair
Warm smell of colitas*, rising up through the air
Up ahead in the distance, I saw shimmering light
My head grew heavy and my sight grew dim
I had to stop for the night
There she stood in the doorway;
I heard the mission bell
And I was thinking to myself,
'This could be Heaven or this could be Hell'
Then she lit up a candle and she showed me the way
There were voices down the corridor,
I thought I heard them say...

Welcome to the Hotel California
Such a lovely place (Such a lovely place)
Such a lovely face
Plenty of room at the Hotel California
Any time of year (Any time of year)
You can find it here

Her mind is Tiffany-twisted, she got the Mercedes Benz
She got a lot of pretty, pretty boys she calls friends
How they dance in the courtyard, sweet summer sweat.
Some dance to remember, some dance to forget

So I called up the Captain,
'Please bring me my wine'
He said, 'We haven't had that spirit here since nineteen sixty nine'
And still those voices are calling from far away,
Wake you up in the middle of the night
Just to hear them say...

Refrain

They livin' it up at the Hotel California
What a nice surprise (what a nice surprise)
Bring your alibis

Mirrors on the ceiling,
The pink champagne on ice
And she said 'We are all just prisoners here, of our own device'
And in the master's chambers,
They gathered for the feast
They stab it with their steely knives,
But they just can't kill the beast

Last thing I remember, I was
Running for the door
I had to find the passage back
To the place I was before
'Relax,' said the night man,
'We are programmed to receive.
You can check-out any time you like,
But you can never leave!'

HOTEL CALIFORNIA

On the surface, the song is a tale of a weary traveler who becomes trapped in a nightmarish hotel that at first appeared tempting. There are many urban legends about the meaning of this metaphor. The song is generally thought to be about the hedonism and self-destruction in the Hollywood music industry the idea is that Hollywood is likened to a luxury hotel which is initially welcoming, but which ends up trapping its residents through their own amoral actions ("we are all just prisoners here of our own device"). Another idea is that it is all about drugs ("stab it with their steely knives") and how addiction traps you in a self-destructive spiral. Finally, it could also be about religion and how a life of hedonistic pleasure can lead to hell where you can't "kill the beast" (the devil)

Questions –SET 1 (set two at bottom of song) (10 marks)

1. Find an image that appeals to each of senses in this song. (5 marks)

Image	Sense (explain)
	Taste
	Touch
	Sound
	Sight
	Smell

*** The term "colitas" in the first stanza of the song is a Spanish term for "little tails." This is a reference to the buds of the marijuana plant, which contain higher concentrations of the psychoactive ingredient, THC, than other parts of the plant.**

Questions –SET 2 (5 marks)

1. What do you think the theme (deeper meaning/message) is in Hotel California? (1)

2. Seize one particularly vivid image and explain/analyze how it relates to the theme you have selected (4)

3. Annotate the song in 3 ways.

