

---

OR

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: *The Sign of Four***

Read the following extract from Chapter 4 and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the novel, Holmes, Watson and Mary Morstan have arrived at Thaddeus Sholto's home and are about to meet him for the first time.

We were all astonished by the appearance of the apartment into which he invited us. In that sorry house it looked as out of place as a diamond of the first water in a setting of brass. The richest and glossiest of curtains and tapestries draped the walls, looped back here and there to expose some richly-mounted painting or Oriental vase. The carpet was of amber-and-black, so soft and so thick that the foot sank pleasantly into it, as into a bed of moss. Two great tiger-skins thrown athwart it increased the suggestion of Eastern luxury, as did a huge hookah which stood upon a mat in the corner. A lamp in the fashion of a silver dove was hung from an almost invisible golden wire in the centre of the room. As it burned it filled the air with a subtle and aromatic odor.

Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson use settings to create a sense of mystery? Write about:

- how Conan Doyle describes the setting in this extract
- how Conan Doyle uses settings to create a sense of mystery in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

**END OF QUESTION**

---