JULIUS CAESAR

ACT V SCENE 1

Multiple Choice Questions

1) Where does the battle between Brutus and Cassius forces and Antony and Octavius' forces take place?

(a) Rome (b) The Senate (c) Philippi (d) The Capitol

2) Which two leaders meet on the battlefield at the beginning of Act 5, Scene 1?

(a) Brutus and Cassius (b) Brutus and Octavius

(c) Cassius and Antony (d) Antony and Octavius

3) Who expresses concern about the outcome of the battle before it begins?

(a) Brutus (b) Cassius (c) Octavius (d) Antony

4) How does Brutus respond to Cassius' concerns about the battle?

(a) He agrees with Cassius doubts (b) He reassures Cassius believing in their cause

(c) He becomes angry with Cassius (d) He ignores Cassius concerns

5) What is the general mood between the two armies before the battle?

(a) Cheerful and hopeful (b) Tense and hostile

(c) Neutral and indifferent (d) Indifferent but civil

6) What feeling does Cassius' words convey when he refers to Octavius as 'a peevish schoolboy' and to Antony as 'a masker and a reveller'?

(a) Fear (b) Disdain (c) Worry (d) Regret

7) Cassius reference to ravens, crows and kites taking the place of two mighty eagles that accompanied their armies from Sardis tells us that he is _____.

(a) filled with superstitious dread (b) an expert bird watcher

(c) happier in the company of birds (d) not a believer in superstition

8) Who offers Brutus and Cassius the chance to make peace and avoid the battle?

(a) Octavius (b) Lepidus (c) Antony (d) Their soldiers

9) What is the primary cause of the hostility between Brutus and Antony?

(a) Antony's ambition (b) The assassination of Caesar

(c) Personal differences (d) Disagreement on military strategy

10) What does Brutus ask his army to do before the battle begins?

(a) To wait for further orders (b) To fight bravely for their cause

(c) To withdraw from the battle (d) To give up arms

11) What happens after Brutus and Cassius exchange harsh words with Antony and Octavius?

(a) They agree to a ceasefire (b) They prepare for battle

(c) They retreat to their camps (d) They make peace

12) What does Octavius claim about Brutus during the confrontation?

(a) That Brutus is a traitor to Caesar (b) That Brutus is an honourable man

(c) That Brutus is afraid of war (d) That Brutus should have never joined the conspiracy

13) Cassius and Brutus make up their minds to die rather than be taken as prisoners. What trait of character is revealed in their behaviour?

(a) Pride (b) Sadism (c) Resignation (d) Pessimism

14) What role does the weather play in Act V Scene 1?

(a) It symbolises the fate of the battle (b) It reflects the tension between the two armies

(c) It is not mentioned (d) It helps in strategising for the battle

15) What is the tone of the interaction between Brutus and Cassius before the battle?

(a) Fearful (b) Cooperative and hopeful

(c) Angry and accusing (d) Friendly and casual

16) Which of the following is not an example of irony?

(a) Cassius calls Caesar a God while describing how weak he was.

(b) Antony refers to Brutus as an honourable man while disproving his claims.

(c) One of the plebeians suggested crowning Brutus king.

(d) Antony compares the conspirators' killing of Caesar to apes and hounds.

17) Which hopes of Octavius are 'answered'?

(a) The conflict between Brutus and Cassius

(b) The armies of the conspirators' advance towards Philippi

(c) The surrender by the armies of the conspirators

(d) None of the above

18) What reason does Antony give for the enemy's advance towards Philippi?

(a) To hide their fear and show their unity

(b) To hide their conflicts and show their unity

(c) To show their patriotism and friendship

(d) None of the above

19) When does Octavius say his sword will go back into its sheath?

(a) When Caesar's ghost will disappear

(b) When another Caesar will appeal

(c) When thirty-three wounds of Caesar have be avenged

(d) When he becomes Caesar

20) Who has been described by Cassius as 'A pevish schoolboy'?

(a) Marcus Brutus (b) Mark Antony (c) Octavius Caesar (d) Lucius

21) With whom has Cassius compared himself in this scene?

(a) Brutus (b) Pompey (c) Caesar (d) Lucius

22) Cassius has changed his mind about the doctrine of Epicurus regarding which of the following?

(a) Superstitious (b) Ghosts (c) Republicanism (d) Omens and Premonitions

23) Who according to Cassius has formed a 'canopy most fatal' over their heads?

(a) Two huge eagles (b) Enemy soldier

(c) Sparrows (d) Crows and Kites

24) How does Brutus define Cato's act of committing suicide?

(a) Mean and short-sighted (b) Low and cowardly

(c) Sensible and timely (d) None of the above

25 Cassius compares Antony's sweet words with which of the following?

(a) Honey made by Sybla bees (b) Honey made by Hybla bees

(c) Honey made by Queen bee (d) Honey made by Olypus bee

26) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2).

Statement 1 : The exchange of insults between the leaders intensifies the tension before the battle.

Statement 2 : Both sides are determined to prove their superiority and justify their actions.

(a) Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false

(b) Statement 2 is true and Statement 1 is false.

(c) Statement 2 is the cause for Statement 1.

(d) Both statements are false.

27) Arrange the following events from Act 5, Scene 1 in the correct order.

1. Antony and Octavius arrive and confront Brutus and Cassius.

2. Cassius expresses concerns about the loyalty of his troops.

3. Brutus and Cassius exchange harsh words with Antony and Octavius.

4. Brutus reassures Cassius that their cause is just.

5. The armies prepare for battle.

(a) 2, 4, 1, 3, 5 (b) 1,2,3,4,5 (c) 4, 2, 1,3,5 (d) 2, 1, 4, 3, 5

Extract Based Questions

Extract 1

Brutus : Words before blows; is it so, countrymen?

Octavius : Not that we love words better, as you do.

Brutus : Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius.

Antony : In your bad strokes, Brutus, you give good words.
Witness the hole you made in Caesar's heart,
Crying 'Long live, hail, Caesar!"

Cassius : Anfony, The posture of your blows are yet unknown.
But, for your words, they rob the Hybla bees
And leave them honeyless.

(i) What does Brutus mean when he says, "Good words are better than bad strokes, Octavius'?

Ans. Brutus implies that diplomacy and peaceful dialogue are preferable to violence and conflict. He criticises Octavius for favouring action over thoughtful words suggesting that resorting to violence without trying to resolve matters verbally is reckless

(ii) How does Antony use irony in his response to Brutus mentioning Caesar's heart?

Ans. Antony uses irony by highlighting the contradiction in Brutus actions. He accuses Brutus of giving good words while committing a grievous act-murdering Caesar Antony sarcastically notes that Brutus spoke respectfully of Caesar even as he betrayed him by stabbing him

(iii) What is the significance of Cassius' comment about Antony's words robbing the Hybla bees of their honey?

Ans. Cassius uses this metaphor to criticise Antony's verbal skill, suggesting that his words are sweet and persuasive but ultimately harmful, as they leave others (like the bees) deprived. This comment reflects Cassius mistrust of Antony's rhetoric viewing it as manipulative and deceitful

(iv) How does the dialogue between Brutus, Octavius, Antony and Cassius reflect the tension between the two factions?

Ans. The dialogue underscores the hostility and mistrust between the factions. Brutus and Cassius emphasise the value of honourable intentions and dialogue. Meanwhile, Antony and Octavius focus

on the perceived hypocrisy and treachery of the conspirators. The exchange reveals the deep animosity and sets the stage for the impending conflict.

(v) Octavius' response to Brutus reveal a lot about his character and attitude toward the confrontation Elaborate.

Ans. Octavius' response shows his direct and confrontational nature. He dismisses the value t words indicating a preference for decisive action. This reflects his confidence and determination to fight contrasting with Brutus more reflective and diplomatic approach. It also highlights Octavius growing assertiveness as a leader.

Extract 2

This is my birthday, as this very day
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala
Be thou my witness that against my will
(As Pompey was) am I compelled to set
Upon one battle all our liberties.
You know that I held Epicurus strong
And his opinion. Now I change my mind
And partly credit things that do presage.

(i) What significance does Cassius attach to his birthday in this scene? How does it reflect his state of mind?

Ans. Cassius mentioning his birthday highlights a persona and reflective moment suggesting a sense of fatales or destiny. He is aware of the irony that the day of his birth mar also mark his death which underscores his inner turmoil and premonition about the battle.

This reflection reveals his growing doubts and resignation to the events unfolding.

(ii) How does Cassius reference to Pompey's compulsion to fight a single battle parallel his own situation?

Ans. Cassius draws a parallel between his current predicament and Pompey's past suggesting that both were forced into decisive battles that they were reluctant to engage in.

This comparison emphasises Cassius sense of being trapped by circumstances, compelled to stake everything on a single battle for freedom, despite his reservations.

(iii) How does Cassius' shift from Epicurean beliefs to partly believing in omens signify a change in his character?

Ans. Cassius' shift from adhering to Epicurean philosophy, which dismisses superstition, to acknowledging omens signifies a profound change in his character. It shows that the pressures of war and impending conflict have eroded his rationalist beliefs making him more susceptible to fear and superstition. This change illustrates his growing uncertainty and vulnerability

(iv) What role does Messala play in this dialogue? Why does Cassius ask him to be a witness?

Ans. Messala serves as a confidant and a witness to Cassius inner thoughts and decisions. Cassius request for Messala to be a witness reflects his desire to document his reluctance and sense of compulsion in fighting this battle

It underscores Cassius' need for validation and acknowledgment of his honourable intentions despite the dire circumstances.

(v) How do Cassius' reflections on fate and free will contribute to the themes of the play?

Ans. Cassius' reflections on fate and free will contribute to the play's exploration of human agency versus destiny. His acknowledgment of foreshadowing omens and his feeling of compulsion suggest a tension between his belief in controlling one's fate and the inescapable forces of destiny. This internal conflict highlights the broader theme of whether characters in the play are masters of their fate or pawns of predetermined outcomes.

Extract 3

Even by the rule of that philosophy
By which I did blame Cato for the death
Which he did give himself (I know not how,
But I do find it cowardly and vile,
For fear of what might fall, so to prevent
The time of life), arming myself with patience
To stay the providence of some high powers
That govern us below.

(i) How does Brutus' reflection on Cato's suicide reveal a conflict in his own philosophy?

Ans. Brutus' reflection reveals a conflict between his Stoic beliefs and his personal feelings about suicide. While he initially blames Cato for what he views as a cowardly act, his current situation forces him to reconsider the morality of suicide. This inner conflict highlights Brutus struggle to reconcile his philosophical ideals with the harsh realities he faces.

(ii) What does Brutus mean by 'arming myself with patience'? How does this phrase reflect his approach to dealing with adversity?

Ans. The phrase 'Arming myself with patience indicates Brutus' resolve to endure hardship and uncertainty with composure.

This reflects his Stoic philosophy which emphasises self-control and acceptance of fate. By embracing patience, Brutus aims to face whatever the future holds without surrendering to fear or impulsiveness.

(iii) How does Brutus' attitude toward providence contrast with his earlier actions in the play?

Ans. Brutus mention of providence of some high powers marks a shift from his earlier reliance on rationality and personal agency, Initially, he believed in the power of human action to shape events as seen in his role in Caesar's assassination Now, he expresses a more fatalistic view, recognising the limits of human control and acknowledging a higher power's influence on earthly affairs.

(iv) What philosophical critique is Brutus making about suicide? How does this critique align with Stoic principles?

Ans. Brutus critiques suicide as an act of cowardice and a pre-emptive avoidance of potential suffering. This critique aligns with Stoic principles which value endurance and resilience in the face of adversity Stoicism teaches that one should accept the natural course of life and death, rather than attempting to escape it out of fear.

(v) In what ways does Brutus contemplation of fate and governance by higher powers reflect the broader themes of the play?

Ans. Brutus contemplation reflects the play's broader themes of fate, free will and the limits of human agency. His acknowledgment of higher powers governing earthly events underscores the tension between the characters' attempts to control their destinies and the overarching influence of fate. This theme resonates throughout the play as characters grapple with their roles in shaping or surrendering to historical forces beyond their control.

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