JULIUS CAESAR

ACT IV SCENE 1

Multiple Choice Questions

1) Who are the members of the Second Triad in Act 4 Scene 1?

(a) Antony, Octavius and Brutus (b) Antony. Cassius and Lepidus

(c) Antony. Octavius and Lepidus (d) Antony, Octavius and Decius

2) What is the main purpose of the meeting between Antony, Octavius and Lepidus?

(a) To plan a celebration for Caesar (b) To divide Caesar's wealth

(c) To create a list of their enemies (d) To discuss peace with Brutus and Cassius

3) What does Antony suggest about Lepidus after he leaves the meeting?

(a) Lepidus is a loyal and valuable ally

(b) Lepidus is untrustworthy and must be eliminated

(c) Lepidus is a tool to be used and discarded

(d) Lepidus should lead the army against Brutus and Cassius

4) When Antony says, 'This is a slight unmeritable man, / Meet to be sent on errands', he refers to

(a) Lepidus (b) Octavius (c) Pindarus (d) Lucilius

5) Towards whose inclusion in the execution list does Antony express no personal objection?

(a) His nephew (b) Octavius' uncle (c) Lepidus' son (d) Cassius' cousin

6) Which of the following sentences does Mark Antony not use to describe Lepidus in Act 4, Scene 1?

(a) He needs to be taught and trained. (b) High-spirited fellow with ideas of his own.

(c) He follows trends and fashion. (d) He is a piece of property.

7) What opinion does Octavius hold about Lepidus?

(a) He is industrious. (b) He is responsible.

(c) He is a good statesman. (d) He is a tried and valiant soldier.

8) What metaphor does Antony use to describe Lepidus?

(a) A loyal dog (b) A burdened mule (c) A mighty lion (d) A broken shield

9) What does the discussion between Antony and Octavius reveal about their relationship?

(a) They are completely united in their plans

(b) They have underlying tensions and differing opinions

(c) Octavius blindly follows Antony's lead

(d) They plan to betray each other

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

Statement 1 : The triumvirate discusses dividing power among themselves.

Statement 2 : They want to ensure there is no single ruler to preverit the rise of another Caesar

(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.

11) "Your brother too must die." Whose brother is referred to?

(a) Antony's (b) Brutus (c) Octavius' (d) Lepidus'

12) Which of the following adjective is not used by Mark Antony for Lepidus?

(a) 'Stone of provender' (b) 'Unmeritable man' (c) 'Barren-spirited fellow' (d) 'A property

13) Mark Antony's dismissal of Lepidus reflect which of the following traits of his personality?

(a) Shrewd manipulator (b) Power-hungry (c) Betrayer of friendship (d) All of these

14) Arrange the following events from Act 4, Scene 1 in the correct sequence.

1. Antony, Octavius and Lepidus create a list of enemies to be executed.

2. Lepidus is sent to fetch Caesar's will.

3. Antony and Octavius discuss Lepidus' worth and role in the triumvirate.

4. Antony suggests that they alter Caesar's will to reduce the bequests to the people.

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

Extract Based Questions

Extract 1

Antony : " These many Then shall die, their names are pricked."

Octavius : "Your brother too must die, consent you, Lepidus?

Lepidus : " I do consent"

Antony : "Prick him down, Octavius."

(i) What is the significance of Antony saying, "These many, then, shall die: their names are pricked"?

Ans. Antony's statement signifies the cold and ruthless nature of the new leadership. The act of 'pricking' names on the list shows the methodical and detached way in which they decide who will be executed. This further highlights the brutal political climate and their determination to eliminate opposition.

(ii) Why does Octavius mention Antony's nephew and ask Lepidus for consent to his death?

Ans. Octavius mentions Antony's nephew to demonstrate the impersonal and merciless nature of their decisions. By seeking Lepidus' consent, he ensures unity and. agreement within the triumvirate, even when it involves. difficult personal sacrifices. This emphasises the political expediency over familial ties.

(iii) How does Lepidus' response, 'I do consent', reflect his character and position within the triumvirate?

Ans. Lepidus quick consent reflects his submissive and passive role within the triumvirate. It shows his willingness to comply with Antony and Octavius decisions, highlighting his weaker position and lack of influence compared to the other two leaders.

(iv) What does Antony's command, 'Prick him down, Octavius, reveal about his leadership style?

Ans. Antony's command reveals his ruthlessness. It shows that he is willing to take swift and harsh actions without hesitation, prioritising political strategy and control over personal relationships or moral considerations.

(v) What theme is emphasised by the exchange of dialogue in these lines?

Ans. The theme emphasised by this exchange of dialogue is ruthlessness and the corrupting nature of power. The casual and impersonal manner in which Antony, Octavius and Lepidus decide on executions illustrates how their thirst for control has led them to prioritise political power over moral considerations. By quickly listing individuals to be killed, including even Lepidus' own brother, they show a complete disregard for personal connections and the sanctity of life.

This exchange highlights the moral decay that often accompanies the pursuit of absolute power as well as the manipulation and use of others as tools in political gain.

Extract 2

Antony: And having brought our treasure where we will,

Then take we down his load and turn him off

(Like to the empty ass) to shake his ears

And graze in commons.

Octavius : You may do your will,

But he's a tried and valiant soldier.

(i) What is the significance of Antony comparing Lepidus to 'the empty ass' in these lines?

Ans. Antony's comparison of Lepidus to an empty ass highlights his low opinion of Lepidus. The image of an 'empty ass suggests that Lepidus is a mere beast of burden carrying their orders without any real influence or worth. Antony sees him as a tool to be used and discarded, rather than a valuable ally.

(ii) What does Octavius mean when he refers to Lepidus as 'a tried and valiant soldier"?

Ans. Octavius statement reflects his more favourable view of Lepidus. By calling him a 'tried and valiant soldier, Octavius acknowledges Lepidus' past military service and bravery. It suggests that Octavius values Lepidus loyalty and military contributions, even if Antony sees him as expendable in political matters.

(iii) How do Antony and Octavius' differing opinions on Lepidus highlight their relationship in this scene?

Ans. The contrasting opinions of Antony and Octavius about Lepidus reveal the tension and differing perspectives within the triumvirate. Antony's dismissive attitude toward Lepidus shows his more cynical, power-driven approach. Meanwhile, Octavius defence of Lepidus indicates his more pragmatic and perhaps more generous approach to alliances highlighting their political dynamics.

(iv) What is implied by Antony's suggestion to 'take we down his load and turn him off?

Ans. Antony's suggestion to 'take we down his load and tum him off implies that they will use Lepidus for a while but once he has served his purpose, they will discard him. This reflects Antony's belief that Lepidus is only useful as a tool to help them achieve their goals and that he is not worthy of long-term trust or power.

(v) What theme is highlighted by the way Antony and Octavius view Lepidus in this exchange?

Ans. The theme of power and manipulation is highlighted in this exchange. It shows how political leaders like Antony and Octavius use others to further their own ambitions. They view their allies and

subordinates as expendable commodities. The discussion underscores the corrupting influence of power and the lack of loyalty in their leadership.

****