

OTHELLO

Act 2 Scenes 2 & 3

NB. Please note that line references are taken from the Arden version

1. What are the theatrical and narrative purposes of Scene 2?
2. In the opening section of Scene 3 between Othello & Cassio (lines 1-11), how is dramatic irony explored?
3. Contrast Iago and Cassio's views of Desdemona (lines 12-25), making note of the language they both use
4. What strategies does Iago employ to convince Cassio to drink?
5. How does Iago manage to suggest support and concern for Cassio while also systematically destroying his character? – look at this technique of his, he uses it a lot in the play
6. How does Iago also call Othello's judgement into question when speaking with Montano?
7. In the section of the scene from the fight to where Cassio exits (lines 145-325), make notes on:
 - How the themes of heaven/hell, reputations, and appearance/reality are explored
 - How Iago's ambiguous use of language twists the situation
 - How Iago plots both to support Cassio and to undermine him
 - What this section reveals about the characters of Iago, Othello and Cassio
 - How blank verse (prose) and verse are used
 - What do you think of Othello's decision? What reasons does he give for making it?
8. In Iago's soliloquy, comment on these quotations:
 - *I play the villain* (327)
 - *All seals and symbols of redeemed sin* (335)
 - *her appetite shall play the god / With his weak function* (338-339)
 - *Divinity of hell!* (341)
 - *When devils with... As I do now:* (342-344)
 - *I will turn her virtue into pitch* (351)
9. When Roderigo re-enters, how does Iago settle him?
10. At the end of this scene, Shakespeare again allows Iago to present the audience with his plans; how have they developed by this point in the play?