

Name: _____

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English 10: World Literature

Preparing for Act II Quiz

1. Do you think that Hamlet is surrounded by people he can trust? Why or why not?
2. Describe Hamlet's behavior when he visits Ophelia in Act II Scene I. Do you think his actions provide evidence of his insanity or are his actions motivated by something else? Explain.
3. When Hamlet addresses Polonius, he calls him a "fishmonger" and says other derogative things about him. What does Hamlet say that is so offensive? Why is it extremely awkward for the audience members to listen to this? Explain.
4. Who are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? Why have they been invited to the castle? What motives do they have for carrying out the king's request?

5. Why is Hamlet bothered by the fact that one of the actors is able to read about the death of King Priam in his speech with such passion? How does Hamlet think he is different from the actor?

6. Do you think Hamlet's hesitation in approaching his task of revenge is a sign of cowardice, or is his thoughtfulness admirable and understandable? Explain your answer.

7. The level of suspense escalates in Act II. How does Shakespeare accomplish this?