

# ENGLISH



## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

TWELFTH NIGHT: 16 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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PERCENTAGE

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STEMUP

## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Duke Orsino opens the action in his palace by calling for music as he longs for Olivia.

### ORSINO

If music be the food of love, play on;  
Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,  
The appetite may sicken, and so die.  
That strain again! it had a dying fall:  
O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet sound,  
That breathes upon a bank of violets,  
Stealing and giving odour! Enough; no more:  
'Tis not so sweet now as it was before.  
O spirit of love! how quick and fresh art thou,  
That, notwithstanding thy capacity  
Receiveth as the sea, nought enters there,  
Of what validity and pitch soe'er,  
But falls into abatement and low price,  
Even in a minute: so full of shapes is fancy  
That it alone is high fantastical.

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Orsino in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Orsino asks for music to feed his love, then complains that love quickly loses its worth and is full of fanciful shapes.

Explain the importance of love and desire elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how love and desire is presented
- the effects love and desire has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

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**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents love and desire in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Orsino asks for music to feed his love, then complains that love quickly loses its worth and is full of fanciful shapes.

Explain the importance of the character of Orsino elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Orsino is presented
- the effects Orsino has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Viola, disguised as Cesario, has been sent by Orsino to woo Olivia, and Olivia has asked what Cesario would do in his master's place.

**VIOLA**

Make me a willow cabin at your gate,  
And call upon my soul within the house;  
Write loyal cantons of contemned love  
And sing them loud even in the dead of night;  
Halloo your name to the reverberate hills  
And make the babbling gossip of the air  
Cry out 'Olivia!' O, You should not rest  
Between the elements of air and earth,  
But you should pity me!

**OLIVIA**

You might do much.  
What is your parentage?

**VIOLA**

Above my fortunes, yet my state is well:  
I am a gentleman.

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Viola in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Viola describes how she would woo Olivia with endless songs of love, and Olivia then sends her away while showing interest in Cesario.

Explain the importance of disguise and desire elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how disguise and desire is presented
- the effects disguise and desire has within the play

(20)

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Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

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**(b)** In this extract, Viola describes how she would woo Olivia with endless songs of love, and Olivia then sends her away while showing interest in Cesario.

Explain the importance of the character of Viola elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Viola is presented
- the effects Viola has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 4 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Orsino and Cesario are discussing love, and Viola hints at her secret feelings for the Duke.

**VIOLA**

My father had a daughter loved a man,  
As it might be, perhaps, were I a woman,  
I should your lordship.

**ORSINO**

And what's her history?

**VIOLA**

A blank, my lord. She never told her love,  
But let concealment, like a worm i' the bud,  
Feed on her damask cheek: she pined in thought,  
And with a green and yellow melancholy  
She sat like patience on a monument,  
Smiling at grief. Was not this love indeed?  
We men may say more, swear more: but indeed  
Our shows are more than will; for still we prove  
Much in our vows, but little in our love.

**ORSINO**

But died thy sister of her love, my boy?

**VIOLA**

I am all the daughters of my father's house,  
And all the brothers too: and yet I know not.  
Sir, shall I to this lady?

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Viola in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Viola tells of a sister who never told her love, which secretly describes her own feelings for Orsino.

Explain the importance of unspoken love elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how unspoken love is presented
- the effects unspoken love has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

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Sir, shall I to this lady?

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents unspoken love in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Viola tells of a sister who never told her love, which secretly describes her own feelings for Orsino.

Explain the importance of the character of Viola elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Viola is presented
- the effects Viola has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 5 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Malvolio finds a forged love letter that he believes comes from Olivia, while Sir Toby, Fabian and Maria watch from hiding.

### MALVOLIO

[Reads]

'If this fall into thy hand, revolve. In my stars I am above thee; but be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em. Thy Fates open their hands; let thy blood and spirit embrace them; and, to inure thyself to what thou art like to be, cast thy humble slough and appear fresh. Be opposite with a kinsman, surly with servants; let thy tongue tang arguments of state; put thyself into the trick of singularity: she thus advises thee that sighs for thee. Remember who commended thy yellow stockings, and wished to see thee ever cross-gartered: I say, remember. Go to, thou art made, if thou desirest to be so; if not, let me see thee a steward still, the fellow of servants, and not worthy to touch Fortune's fingers. Farewell. She that would alter services with thee,  
THE FORTUNATE-UNHAPPY.'

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Malvolio in this extract. Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Malvolio reads out the letter, which tells him to embrace greatness and wear yellow stockings, and he is taken in by it.

Explain the importance of social ambition elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how social ambition is presented
- the effects social ambition has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

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### MALVOLIO

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**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents social ambition in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

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**(b)** In this extract, Malvolio reads out the letter, which tells him to embrace greatness and wear yellow stockings, and he is taken in by it.

Explain the importance of the character of Malvolio elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Malvolio is presented
- the effects Malvolio has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Olivia has sent for Cesario again and cannot hide her love for the young man, after Viola, as Cesario, has spoken to her in riddles about not being what she seems.

### OLIVIA

O, what a deal of scorn looks beautiful  
In the contempt and anger of his lip!  
A murderous guilt shows not itself more soon  
Than love that would seem hid: love's night is noon.  
Cesario, by the roses of the spring,  
By maidhood, honour, truth and every thing,  
I love thee so, that, maugre all thy pride,  
Nor wit nor reason can my passion hide.  
Do not extort thy reasons from this clause,  
For that I woo, thou therefore hast no cause,  
But rather reason thus with reason fetter,  
Love sought is good, but given unsought better.

### VIOLA

By innocence I swear, and by my youth  
I have one heart, one bosom and one truth,  
And that no woman has; nor never none  
Shall mistress be of it, save I alone.  
And so adieu, good madam: never more  
Will I my master's tears to you deplore.

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Olivia in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Olivia admits she cannot hide her love and declares it openly, and Viola swears that she can love no woman.

Explain the importance of unrequited love elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how unrequited love is presented
- the effects unrequited love has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

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And so adieu, good madam: never more  
Will I my master's tears to you deplore.

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents unrequited love in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Olivia admits she cannot hide her love and declares it openly, and Viola swears that she can love no woman.  
Explain the importance of the character of Olivia elsewhere in the play.  
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Olivia is presented
- the effects Olivia has within the play

(20)

**(Total for this question = 40 marks)**

## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 2 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Feste, disguised as Sir Topas the curate, is tormenting the imprisoned Malvolio in a dark room.

**MALVOLIO**

I am not mad, Sir Topas: I say to you, this house is dark.

**FESTE**

Madman, thou errest: I say, there is no darkness but ignorance; in which thou art more puzzled than the Egyptians in their fog.

**MALVOLIO**

I say, this house is as dark as ignorance, though ignorance were as dark as hell; and I say, there was never man thus abused. I am no more mad than you are: make the trial of it in any constant question.

**FESTE**

What is the opinion of Pythagoras concerning wild fowl?

**MALVOLIO**

That the soul of our grandam might haply inhabit a bird.

**FESTE**

What thinkest thou of his opinion?

**MALVOLIO**

I think nobly of the soul, and no way approve his opinion.

**FESTE**

Fare thee well. Remain thou still in darkness: thou shalt hold the opinion of Pythagoras ere I will allow of thy wits, and fear to kill a woodcock, lest thou dispossess the soul of thy grandam. Fare thee well.

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Malvolio in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Malvolio insists that he is sane, while Feste, disguised as a priest, twists his words and tells him to remain in darkness.

Explain the importance of cruelty and madness elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how cruelty and madness is presented
- the effects cruelty and madness has within the play

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In your answer, you must consider:

- how Malvolio is presented
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## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Sebastian has just appeared before Orsino and Olivia, and everyone is amazed that he looks exactly like Cesario.

**ORSINO**

One face, one voice, one habit, and two persons,  
A natural perspective, that is and is not!

**SEBASTIAN**

Antonio, O my dear Antonio!  
How have the hours rack'd and tortured me,  
Since I have lost thee!

**ANTONIO**

Sebastian are you?

**SEBASTIAN**

Fear'st thou that, Antonio?

**ANTONIO**

How have you made division of yourself?  
An apple, cleft in two, is not more twin  
Than these two creatures. Which is Sebastian?

**OLIVIA**

Most wonderful!

**SEBASTIAN**

Do I stand there? I never had a brother;  
Nor can there be that deity in my nature,  
Of here and every where. I had a sister,  
Whom the blind waves and surges have devour'd.

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Sebastian in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Orsino marvels at the two identical faces, Antonio is bewildered, and Sebastian says he never had a brother.

Explain the importance of identity and mistaken appearances elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how identity and mistaken appearances is presented
- the effects identity and mistaken appearances has within the play

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## Shakespeare: Twelfth Night

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of *Twelfth Night* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Malvolio storms in with the forged letter and confronts Olivia for the humiliation he has suffered.

**MALVOLIO**

Madam, you have done me wrong,  
Notorious wrong.

**OLIVIA**

Have I, Malvolio? no.

**MALVOLIO**

Lady, you have. Pray you, peruse that letter.  
You must not now deny it is your hand:  
Write from it, if you can, in hand or phrase;  
Or say 'tis not your seal, nor your invention:  
You can say none of this: well, grant it then  
And tell me, in the modesty of honour,  
Why you have given me such clear lights of favour,  
Bade me come smiling and cross-garter'd to you,  
To put on yellow stockings and to frown  
Upon Sir Toby and the lighter people;  
And, acting this in an obedient hope,  
Why have you suffer'd me to be imprison'd,  
Kept in a dark house, visited by the priest,  
And made the most notorious geck and gull  
That e'er invention play'd on? tell me why.

**(a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Malvolio in this extract.  
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

**(b)** In this extract, Malvolio accuses Olivia of encouraging his hopes and then having him locked up in the dark as a madman.

Explain the importance of humiliation and revenge elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how humiliation and revenge is presented
- the effects humiliation and revenge has within the play

(20)

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- the effects Malvolio has within the play

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