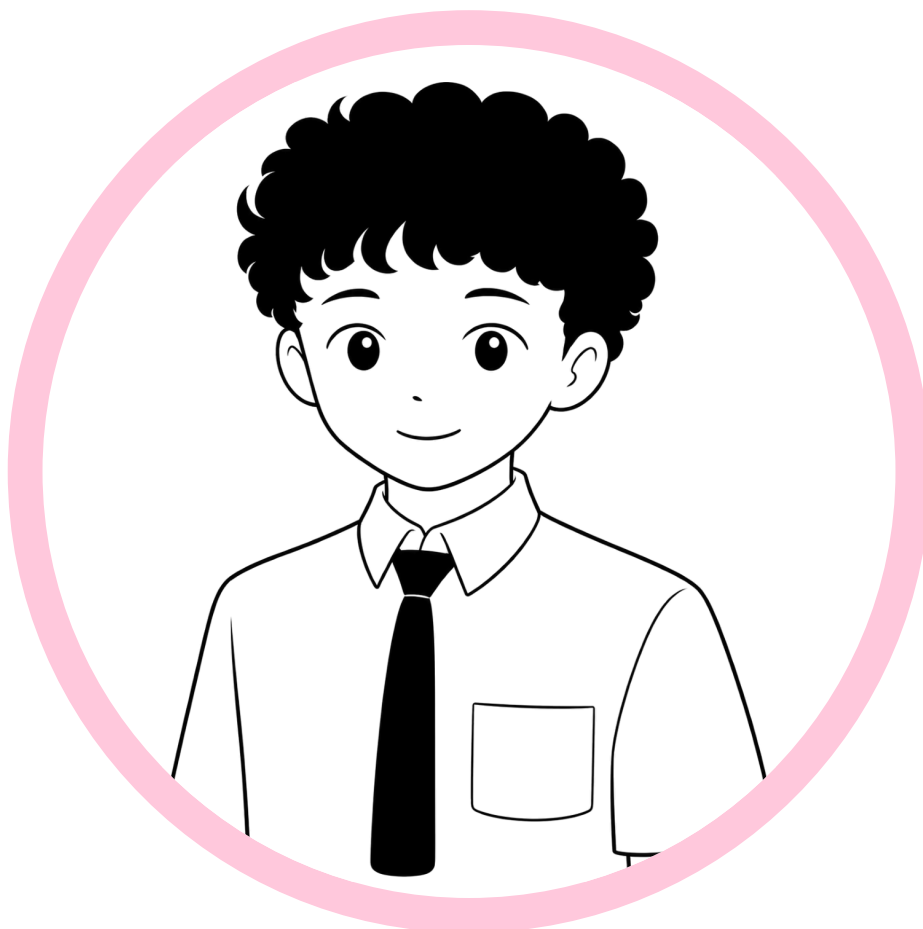


ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

JULIUS CAESAR: 16 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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PERCENTAGE

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STEMUP

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Cassius is trying to win Brutus over to a plot against Caesar while shouts from a distant crowd suggest Caesar is being offered the crown.

CASSIUS

Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus, and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs and peep about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
Men at some time are masters of their fates:
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings.
Brutus and Caesar: what should be in that 'Caesar'?
Why should that name be sounded more than yours?
Write them together, yours is as fair a name;
Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;
Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with 'em,
Brutus will start a spirit as soon as Caesar.
Now, in the names of all the gods at once,
Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed,
That he is grown so great? Age, thou art shamed!
Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Cassius as a persuasive and envious manipulator.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Cassius as a persuasive and envious manipulator in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Cassius as a persuasive and envious manipulator in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

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Now, in the names of all the gods at once,
Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed,
That he is grown so great? Age, thou art shamed!
Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about ambition and power.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about ambition and power in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about ambition and power in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 1 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Brutus is alone in his orchard at night, deciding whether to join the conspiracy against Caesar.

BRUTUS

The abuse of greatness is, when it disjoins
Remorse from power: and, to speak truth of Caesar,
I have not known when his affections sway'd
More than his reason. But 'tis a common proof,
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,
Whereto the climber-upward turns his face;
But when he once attains the upmost round.
He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees
By which he did ascend. So Caesar may.
Then, lest he may, prevent. And, since the quarrel
Will bear no colour for the thing he is,
Fashion it thus; that what he is, augmented,
Would run to these and these extremities:
And therefore think him as a serpent's egg
Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,
And kill him in the shell.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Brutus as a noble but conflicted idealist.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Brutus as a noble but conflicted idealist in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Brutus as a noble but conflicted idealist in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

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And therefore think him as a serpent's egg
Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,
And kill him in the shell.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about ambition and tyranny.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about ambition and tyranny in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about ambition and tyranny in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Calpurnia is begging Caesar to stay at home because of her terrible dreams and the strange omens seen in Rome.

CALPURNIA

O Caesar! these things are beyond all use,
And I do fear them.

CAESAR

What can be avoided
Whose end is purposed by the mighty gods?
Yet Caesar shall go forth; for these predictions
Are to the world in general as to Caesar.

CALPURNIA

When beggars die, there are no comets seen;
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.

CAESAR

Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Caesar as proud and fearless, but over-confident.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Caesar as proud and fearless, but over-confident in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Caesar as proud and fearless, but over-confident in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

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Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about fate and superstition.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about fate and superstition in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about fate and superstition in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Caesar is standing in the Senate while the conspirators kneel before him and beg him to pardon the banished Publius Cimber.

CAESAR

Yet in the number I do know but one
That unassailable holds on his rank,
Unshaked of motion: and that I am he,
Let me a little show it, even in this;
That I was constant Cimber should be banish'd,
And constant do remain to keep him so.

CINNA

O Caesar, -

CAESAR

Hence! wilt thou lift up Olympus?

DECIUS BRUTUS

Great Caesar, -

CAESAR

Doth not Brutus bootless kneel?

CASCA

Speak, hands for me!

[CASCA first, then the other Conspirators and BRUTUS stab CAESAR]

CAESAR

Et tu, Brute! Then fall, Caesar.

[Dies]

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Caesar as arrogant and unbending.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Caesar as arrogant and unbending in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Caesar as arrogant and unbending in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

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Great Caesar, -

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CASCA

Speak, hands for me!

[CASCA first, then the other Conspirators and BRUTUS stab CAESAR]

CAESAR

Et tu, Brute! Then fall, Caesar.

[Dies]

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about power and betrayal.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about power and betrayal in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about power and betrayal in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Brutus is addressing the crowd in the Forum to justify why he and the conspirators have killed Caesar.

BRUTUS

If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: - Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men? As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour him: but, as he was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears for his love; joy for his fortune; honour for his valour; and death for his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so rude that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Brutus as honourable but naive in his reasoning.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Brutus as honourable but naive in his reasoning in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Brutus as honourable but naive in his reasoning in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

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Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about loyalty to Rome and political persuasion.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about loyalty to Rome and political persuasion in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about loyalty to Rome and political persuasion in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Antony has been allowed to speak at Caesar's funeral, after Brutus has left the crowd on the side of the conspirators.

ANTONY

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest -
For Brutus is an honourable man;
So are they all, all honourable men -
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.
He was my friend, faithful and just to me:
But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Antony as a skilful and cunning orator.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Antony as a skilful and cunning orator in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Antony as a skilful and cunning orator in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

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So are they all, all honourable men -
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.
He was my friend, faithful and just to me:
But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about rhetoric and manipulation.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about rhetoric and manipulation in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about rhetoric and manipulation in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Brutus and Cassius, now facing Antony and Octavius' army, are quarrelling bitterly in Brutus's tent.

CASSIUS

Do not presume too much upon my love;
I may do that I shall be sorry for.

BRUTUS

You have done that you should be sorry for.
There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats,
For I am arm'd so strong in honesty
That they pass by me as the idle wind,
Which I respect not. I did send to you
For certain sums of gold, which you denied me:
For I can raise no money by vile means:
By heaven, I had rather coin my heart,
And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring
From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash
By any indirection: I did send
To you for gold to pay my legions,
Which you denied me: was that done like Cassius?
Should I have answer'd Caius Cassius so?
When Marcus Brutus grows so covetous,
To lock such rascal counters from his friends,
Be ready, gods, with all your thunderbolts;
Dash him to pieces!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Brutus as a man of strict principle.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Brutus as a man of strict principle in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Brutus as a man of strict principle in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Brutus and Cassius, now facing Antony and Octavius' army, are quarrelling bitterly in Brutus's tent.

CASSIUS

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BRUTUS

You have done that you should be sorry for.
There is no terror, Cassius, in your threats,
For I am arm'd so strong in honesty
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Should I have answer'd Caius Cassius so?
When Marcus Brutus grows so covetous,
To lock such rascal counters from his friends,
Be ready, gods, with all your thunderbolts;
Dash him to pieces!

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about friendship, honour and corruption.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about friendship, honour and corruption in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about friendship, honour and corruption in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 5 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Brutus has killed himself on the battlefield, and Antony and Octavius are standing over his body.

ANTONY

This was the noblest Roman of them all:
All the conspirators save only he
Did that they did in envy of great Caesar;
He only, in a general honest thought
And common good to all, made one of them.
His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world 'This was a man!'

OCTAVIUS

According to his virtue let us use him,
With all respect and rites of burial.
Within my tent his bones to-night shall lie,
Most like a soldier, order'd honourably.
So call the field to rest; and let's away,
To part the glories of this happy day.
[Exeunt]

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Antony as generous in his judgement of Brutus.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Antony as generous in his judgement of Brutus in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Antony as generous in his judgement of Brutus in the play as a whole

[30 marks]

Shakespeare: Julius Caesar

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 5 of *Julius Caesar* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Brutus has killed himself on the battlefield, and Antony and Octavius are standing over his body.

ANTONY

This was the noblest Roman of them all:
All the conspirators save only he
Did that they did in envy of great Caesar;
He only, in a general honest thought
And common good to all, made one of them.
His life was gentle, and the elements
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OCTAVIUS

According to his virtue let us use him,
With all respect and rites of burial.
Within my tent his bones to-night shall lie,
Most like a soldier, order'd honourably.
So call the field to rest; and let's away,
To part the glories of this happy day.
[Exeunt]

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about honour and nobility.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents ideas about honour and nobility in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents ideas about honour and nobility in the play as a whole

[30 marks]