

Act III, Scene - 2

Q.1. 1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (a) 5. (a) 6. (b) 7. (d)

Q.2. 1. Brutus is trying to justify that Caesar deserved to be killed because he was highly ambitious.

2. Brutus portrays himself as a true patriot. He loved Caesar but he loved Rome more than Caesar. Thus, like a true patriot Brutus slew Caesar because he (Caesar) wanted to be the king and treat all Romans as his slaves.

3. Speech of Brutus had a great impact on the mob. When he asked whom he had offended in killing Caesar, all said in one voice 'None'.

4. Speech of Brutus was plain and straight forward. He made an appeal to the intellect of the people.

But Antony's speech was highly dramatic. He made an appeal to the heart of the mob.

5. The meaning of the word bondman is slave. He would have offended none because nobody wants to be a slave.

Q.3. 1. Antony has achieved what he wanted. He wanted permission of the conspirators to address the mob. He wanted to give funeral speech as a friend of Caesar.

2. The greatest blunder of Brutus was to allow Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral. Moreover, after delivering his speech Brutus went away from the scene.

3. Cassius is very unhappy with the decision of Brutus who seems to be over confident of his hold on the Romans. He knows not what may happen but he dislikes it.

4. Brutus says that Antony will speak only after he has addressed the people. Secondly, he will admit that he is making the speech with the permission of Brutus.

5. Cassius was certainly a better judge of human character. He wanted that Antony should also be killed alongwith Caesar as he could prove dangerous. But Brutus did not agree. Secondly, Cassius wanted that Antony should not be allowed to address the mob. But Brutus had his say and the result was total ruin of the conspirators.

Act III, Scene - 3

- Q. 1.** 1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (a) 6. (b)
- Q. 2.** 1. Cinna, the poet is the speaker. Roman citizens in the mob had asked him these questions.
2. Cinna, who was confused by a series of questions, replied that he was a bachelor.
3. They were not satisfied with the answer. Second citizen said that his answer meant that fools alone get married.
4. The scene projects that the crowd is mad with anger. They are out to kill the conspirators.
5. The murder of Caesar and the speech of Antony which added fuel to the fire.
- Q. 3.** 1. The Plebians are mad with anger. The moment they hear the name Cinna, they are ready to kill him.
2. They act in this manner because they are enraged beyond reason. They have no feeling, no reasoning. They only have uncontrollable anger.
3. They decide to kill Cinna the poet for his bad name.
4. This outburst is not justified. Even under strong provocation people should not lose temper and resort to senseless slaughter.
5. He had dreamt about feasting with Caesar. Yes, it was a bad dream because Caesar had already died. It is a superstition that meeting a dead person in dream is inauspicious. It forbodes the person's death.

Act - IV Scene - 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (a) | 3. (a) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) | 6. (a) | 7. (a) |
| 8. (a) | 9. (a) | 10. (a) | 11. (b) | 12. (b) | 13. (a) | 14. (a) |
| 15. (a) | 16. (b) | 17. (c) | 18. (a) | 19. (d) | 20. (b) | 21. (b) |
| 22. (b) | 23. (a) | 24. (b) | | | | |

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

QUESTION-1

1. The scene takes place in a house in Rome. Two new characters introduced are Octavius and Lepidus. This scene is different from the earlier scene contrasted with the earlier scene, this scene shows clever manipulation of the situation and future plans of Antony and his companions.
2. He means that the names of those who are to be put to death have been marked out. This is being done to get rid of the supporters of the conspirators.
3. It is decided that Lepidus' brother will die. Upon this he lays down the condition that Antony's nephew should also die. Yes, Antony agrees to this. He condemns him with the stroke of his pen.

4. Antony instructs Lepidus to go to Caesar's house and bring his will. He intends to settle how they can reduce some of the expenditure in legacies.
5. It reveals that Antony is a very clever manipulator and he will control the situation very well.

QUESTION-2

1. He is referring to Lepidus. He is speaking with Octavius.
2. Antony calls him a feeble man of no merit because he has a very poor opinion of Lepidus. Antony feels that he (Lepidus) is fit only to be used for errands.
3. 'Threefold world' refers to the division of Roman empire in Europe, Africa and Asia.
4. Octavius refutes what Antony has said. Tauntingly he says if Lepidus is a feeble man of no merit, then his taking Antony's vote as to who should be marked off to die is not justified.
5. Black sentence means capital punishment and proscription means list of laws for those people who are condemned by the state to die and their properties are to be confiscated by the government.

QUESTION-3

1. Antony is the elder of the two speakers. Octavius asks Antony to do as he likes because he admits Antony's seniority though he disagrees with him.
2. Octavius says that Lepidus is not just a donkey fit to carry loads, but he is a brave soldier. He adds that Antony must not forget this quality of Lepidus.
3. Antony gives his horse a plentiful supply of food. He has trained him to fight, to stop and gallop. The movements of his horse are controlled by his wishes. Antony says that Lepidus is like his horse. He must be guided, trained and instructed. In short he has no originality.
4. Antony says that Lepidus blindly imitates the manners of others. He is very happy to adopt what others have left after much use.
5. They are busy raising armies. Antony plans to gather resources and form a firm alliance to unite together and make the best use of their means. This is necessary to fight the enemy.

QUESTION-4

1. 'Great - things' here means great news, the latest information. He says great things because this news is much more important than wasting time in discussing Lepidus.
2. He tells Octavius that Brutus and Cassius are raising armies and so they must also gather their resources and get ready for the war.
3. He says that they should consult how hidden dangers may be exposed and obvious dangers may be easily encountered.
4. Octavius replies that they are like the bear tied to the stake and they are fighting against their enemies who are like a ring of dogs. He adds that some outwardly smiling persons have ill-will in their hearts.

5. We feel that Octavius is brave, sincere and respectful to Antony. He has to follow Antony if he wants to take revenge for the murder of Caesar.

QUESTION-5

1. Octavius feels that they are like the bear tied to the stake and fighting against a ring of dogs.
It means that they are surrounded by enemies in the same way as in the popular sport the bear is tied and dogs are left to attack it.
2. He fears that those, who outwardly claim that they are friends, but actually are hidden enemies, are more dangerous. They are smiling villains.
3. Antony and Octavius are very wise in handling the situation. They anticipate wisely the plans of their enemies and act accordingly. No wonder they succeed in defeating the enemy. Whereas Antony is more practical and ruthless. Octavius is wiser and more rational.
4. Brutus is noble and patriotic. He assumes leadership though he is not fit for the role of a politician. He lacks foresight and is not a good judge of persons. But in sharp contrast, the new triumvirs — Antony, Octavius and Lepidus — are ambitious. Antony leading the group is practical, cold blooded and ruthless. He is also hypocrite at times. Brutus was clear that only Caesar should be killed, but Antony is ready to kill even his own nephew.
5. Antony is ruthless as he does not mind putting his own nephew to death. He is hypocritical also. He wants to use Lepidus for his benefit and then discard him when he is of no use. Earlier in Act III he was pretending to be a lover of the masses, but now he is preparing a list of those who are to be put to death. He is ambitious, cold blooded, hypocrite.

Act - IV Scene - 2

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (d) | 3. (a) | 4. (a) | 5. (c) | 6. (c) | 7. (a) |
| 8. (a) | 9. (b) | | | | | |

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

QUESTION-1

1. Cassius is being spoken about. The scene is set in Brutus' camp near Sardis. He is speaking about Cassius.
2. Brutus, who is the listener, assesses that Cassius who used to be his best friend has become cold.
3. Hollow *i.e.*, insincere men are compared to horses which appear high spirited in the beginning but when they are put to test their heads fall, they fail.
4. Army of Antony and Octavius approaches. They want to defeat and kill Brutus and Cassius.

5. Brutus and Cassius are good friends. Brutus is an idealist. He is leading and Cassius, though more practical is siding with him. On the other hand, Antonio is leading and Octavius is with him. Both of them are more rational and practical.

QUESTION-2

1. Cassius is referring to seriousness and idealism of Brutus. His seriousness, according to Cassius hides the injustice which he does to others.
2. Brutus is conscious of the presence of other persons (their companions). He feels that it is not wise to discuss their problems and grievances in the presence of others. That is why he asks Cassius to speak quietly and not get excited.
3. Cassius at once understands what Brutus wants. So he instructs Pindarus to move away a little farther from that place.
4. Lucilius and Titanius guard the door.
5. This scene shows that the relationship of Brutus and Cassius is falling apart. Cassius is angry. He feels that Brutus has done him wrong. But Brutus being an idealist is unaware of any such wrong done by him.

Act - IV Scene - 3

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

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|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (a) | 3. (a) | 4. (a) | 5. (a) | 6. (a) | 7. (b) |
| 8. (a) | 9. (a) | 10. (a) | 11. (c) | | | |

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

QUESTION-1

1. They are in a camp near Sardis. Brutus told Cassius that should not have written in support of Lucius Pella who is a corrupt man.
2. Cassius feels that in such a time as this when their enemies are collecting armies and are ready to attack they should not keep arguing on such a small matter as writing a letter in favour of one person.
3. Brutus accused Cassius of having an 'itching palm'. Cassius reacts very angrily to this accusation. He says that if anyone else had said this he would have killed him.
4. This means that times are hard. Their enemies are collecting forces and can attack anytime. At such a time it is not proper that they should take every little fault into account so seriously.
5. Yes, he was justified. Cassius had been selling offices for money. Moreover, when Brutus sent a message to Cassius asking for money which he needed to pay the troops, he refused to give.

QUESTION-2

1. Brutus reminds Cassius of idea of March when Caesar was killed **March**, the **ides** of **March**.
2. The words in the blanks signify the Ides of March. This was the day when Caesar was killed by them to uphold justice, liberty and democracy. Now that they had power, they were resorting to corrupt practices.
3. Brutus reminds Cassius that the senators who killed Caesar were not murderers. They killed Caesar in the name of justice. They killed him because he allowed the robbers to go unpunished. What he means to say is that they should not repeat those things for which they sacrificed Caesar.
4. Brutus was wrong because they killed Caesar not because he was unjust, but because he was going to be a despot.
Brutus was not fair to Cassius. He was angry with Cassius because the latter had not given him money when he needed it.
5. Brutus' behaviour has changed. He appears to be tense and agitated. There is inner turmoil in him. Perhaps he is so much disturbed due to the death of Portia, his dear wife.

QUESTION-3

1. The lines are spoken scornfully. Brutus means that Cassius will have to swallow the poison of his anger and bad temper even if it kills him.
2. Brutus tells Cassius tauntingly that if he shows this kind of anger and ill temper he will laugh at him. The words pinch Cassius so much that he says "Is it come to this?"
3. Cassius considers himself better because he has more experience of the world. He was not justified in his assessment because he was not more experienced than Brutus.
4. Brutus had called Cassius a madman. Secondly, he said to Cassius that he should frighten his slaves by showing how choleric he is. Brutus will not be frightened. He was not justified in doing this.
5. The misunderstanding was that when Brutus sent a message that he needed money to pay the troops, Cassius refused. Cassius justified himself saying that he did not refuse to give him money but the man who brought this message must be a fool. Cassius softens towards Brutus when he comes to know that Portia has died.

QUESTION-4

1. Cassius says that a friend should bear with the weaknesses of a friend but Brutus does not budge from his hard stand. This frustrates him. Complaints of Cassius were that Brutus had wronged him many times. He had also disregarded Cassius' letter written in support of Lucius Pella.

2. He means to say that his heart is dearer than the wealth of god Pluto. He means to say that as there is gold enough in Pluto's mine, he has love for Brutus in his heart.
3. Cassius says that he had not denied giving money to Brutus. The man who brought this message must be mad. He offered his breast to Brutus and said that the man who denied him money has opened his heart to him. Brutus can take out his heart, his dearest possession.
4. Brutus pacifies Cassius telling him that he is the partner of a man whose heart is very soft. He admits that he had taunted him in a bad mood. Thus he ends the quarrel.
We would have ended the quarrel by feeling sorry for the fit of bad temper.
5. A poet enters the scene. He puts them to shame for quarreling among themselves in this way. Brutus angrily asks him to get out.

QUESTION-5

1. Brutus speaks to Cassius in the first line. He does not want to speak about the death of Portia. Brutus is upset because he has received letters informing that Antony and Octavius have gathered great power.
2. He is trying to wave off Portia's thought. He is an idealist and he is trying to use this philosophy (we must all die one day) in this context.
3. He is a soldier in the army of Cassius. He gives the information that he too has got letters and by an edict and an order of doom Antony, Lepidus and Octavius have put to death hundred members of the senate.
4. Brutus suggests that they should march immediately towards Philippi. Cassius does not agree to this. He says that the enemy would exhaust energy in seeking them, while they will remain full of strength. So they should not march.
5. Cassius gives good suggestion. But Brutus turns down Cassius' suggestion although it is more practical. He insists on having his own way and gives arguments which are impractical. No wonder they lose the battle.

QUESTION-6

1. Brutus explains to Cassius that people between Philippi and Sardis have no goodwill towards them. If they allow the enemy forces to march to them, the people might join the enemy. So they should, without giving time to enemy, launch the attack.
2. Just like the tide in the sea, there is tide in the life of men. If the ship misses the tide it is bound to be stuck up. Similarly if human beings miss the opportunity, the voyage of life becomes sorrowful. They lose the battle of life.
3. Brutus says that journey of life is comparable to journey of ship. If a ship takes advantage of the tide it sails smoothly. Similarly if human beings take advantage of opportunities of life they succeed, otherwise they fail.
4. No, Brutus was not justified in taking advantage of the tide. His decision to march towards Philippi was wrong that is why his forces faced defeat. He should have acted upon the suggestion of Cassius which was more practical.

5. Brutus proposes that night has fallen and they should go to sleep so that they can get up early and leave for Philippi with fresh energy.

QUESTION-7

1. The scene is set in a camp at Sardis. It is the time of midnight and all have gone to sleep. A candle is burning and Brutus sees Caesar's ghost. It turns his blood cold.
2. The apparition tells Brutus that it is Brutus' evil spirit. It will meet him again at Philippi. Brutus is alarmed to see the ghost. Had I been in Brutus' place, I too would have been dumb with fear.
3. The appearance of the ghost adds to tension and excitement. The words of the ghost are a warning of the coming catastrophe. They point out to the doom of Brutus and Cassius.
4. Shakespeare knew that the Elizabethans were interested in the supernatural things. So he brought in the ghost. We feel that it was only a figment of Brutus' imagination. After the murder of Caesar, Brutus must have been thinking all the time of Caesar. No wonder his thoughts acquired the form of a spirit and appeared before him. No other person saw anything.
5. The apparition appears before Brutus in the Philippi fields a night before the final battle. Brutus tells about this to Voluminus.

Specimen Question Paper

Scene - 1

Q.1. 1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (d)

Q.2. 1. in legacies

2. Antony's nephew (sister's son), because he has sympathies with the conspirators.
3. Antony had told in the funeral speech that Caesar had left in his will, seventy five drachmas for each citizen of Rome. We see that now Antony wants to make a change in the will. He wants to cut off a part of legacies.
4. The words mean that they are to determine how much money they are to cut off from the legacies so that they are able to meet the expenses. They are associated with the will of Caesar.
5. Antony says that Lepidus can't do anything of his own. He is a weak fellow of no merit. He must be guided and trained as he has no originality. Secondly, he imitates others. Thirdly, he is just a property like a piece of furniture. This shows that Antony is very selfish and has a poor opinion of others.

Q.3. 1. 'You' means Antony and 'him' means Lepidus. Octavius wants to point out that if he (Antony) had such a poor opinion about Lepidus then why he took Lepidus to vote as to who should be condemned to die.