

Act I, Scene II

PASSAGE 1

1. The soothsayer called out to Caesar. He warned Caesar to beware of the Ides of March i.e., of the 15th of March.
2. Here 'Press' means crowd. Another meaning of 'press' is the mob, the big crowd of the common people.
3. Caesar being deaf of one ear turns his other ear to listen. He challenges the speaker warning him to come to his face and say what he has to say.
4. Caesar does not take the warning of the speaker seriously. He just dismisses the speaker calling him a dreamer not to be taken notice of.
5. It is his wife who later warns Caesar as she had a terrible dream of Caesar's death. Caesar is shown as haughty and boastful.

PASSAGE 2

1. Brutus and Cassius are at a public place. It is the occasion of the feast of Lupercal. The scene is soon after Caesar exits.
2. Cassius has observed lately that Brutus' manner has become hard and he lacks the gentle look of friendship.
3. Brutus says that he is in no mood for games and frivolous activities. He tells Cassius that he lacks lively temperament which Antony has.
4. Brutus tells Cassius that he is suffering from internal conflict. That is why his attitude towards his friends has changed. It means no offence or neglect to friends, but he has failed to show customary respect and courtesies to others.
5. Cassius has his own selfish motive in showing his friendship towards Brutus. He wants to poison Brutus' mind by speaking about the growing powers and popularity of Caesar whereas Brutus is no less than Caesar in any way.

PASSAGE 3

1. Cassius goes on to tell Brutus that people hold him (Brutus) in high esteem and Brutus is unaware of his goodness and nobility. People are lamenting that the oppression by Caesar is not being noticed by Brutus.
2. Brutus refers to the dangerous insinuations made by Cassius. Brutus says that he is not aware of what oppression is there because being a close friend of Caesar, he does not notice Caesar's tyranny.
3. Cassius offers to be Brutus' mirror to reflect the latter's virtues about which Brutus is still unaware.
4. Cassius assures Brutus that he (Cassius) is never non-serious. He does not talk insincere or false things. He is a trusted friend who is loyal in friendship.
5. Brutus portrays himself as a wellwisher of the common people. He is ready to stake his honour for the sake of Rome if it faces tyranny.

PASSAGE 4

1. Brutus and Cassius are alone together after the exit of Caesar at the Lupercal festivities because they are discussing the affairs of the state in the wake of Caesar's triumph over Pompey and his sons.
2. Brutus is not in favour of Caesar becoming king because he fears republicanism can be in danger if all powers are vested in one person.
3. Cassius highlights Caesar's weaknesses as :
 - (1) he proved to be a poor swimmer when challenged to leap into the turbulent waters of the river Tiber and
 - (2) Caesar cried like a helpless girl when he was stricken with fever in Spain.

4. Cassius compares 'Brutus and Cassius' that when pronounced they have the same emphasis and sound as good as that of Caesar.
5. The word 'fear' signifies something happening unfavourable to the individual as well as to any wellwisher of the state. Cassius interprets the word 'fear' to arouse Brutus's spirits to rise against Caesar.

PASSAGE 5

1. Cassius speaks these lines. Aeneas was the founder of Rome. When the Greeks burned and looted Troy after ten years of siege. Aeneas rescued his father Anchises carrying him on his back.
2. Cassius compares himself to Aeneas because just as Aeneas saved his father in crisis, in the same way he (Cassius) saved Caesar from being carried away by the strong waves of the river Tiber.
3. This 'man' referred to here is Caesar. The speaker bears a grudge against Caesar who is not stronger or better than him in any way.
4. The speaker (Cassius) compares Caesar to God sarcastically, meaning that Caesar is no God at all.
5. This speech of the speaker shows his jealousy for Caesar whom he does not consider so great as he has been made to be believed.

PASSAGE 6

1. The word 'jealous' in this context means 'doubt'; so nothing jealous means without doubt or very sure.
2. Brutus is aware that he has the complete understanding of Cassius' motive, which is to seek Brutus' approval and consent to join his enterprise in killing Caesar.
3. Brutus assures Cassius that he will think over the plan chalked out by Cassius sincerely and seriously. This makes Cassius glad.
4. Caesar accompanied by his followers enters the scene soon after Brutus and Cassius have discussed the plan.
5. Cassius decides to pluck i.e., stop Casca by the sleeve to know from him what happened that day.

PASSAGE 7

1. Caesar addresses these words to Mark Antony. Antony tries to assure Caesar that Cassius is not a dangerous person; he is inclined to do good.
2. Caesar is not convinced by Antony's words because he wishes that Cassius should have been fat. Lean or hungry looks of a man are dangerous, according to Caesar.

3. Caesar explains why such a person is to be feared. Cassius reads too much. He is a great observer and his sharp eyes can read the character of men and discover their motives. Men such as Cassius who have no smiles and love no music are dangerous.
4. A little later we are told that Caesar could not bear the foul smell of the shouting crowds. He suffered from falling sickness i.e., epileptic fit. His mouth was foaming and he was unable to speak.
5. Caesar truly judged Cassius' character. It was Cassius who became dangerous out of his jealousy towards Caesar.

PASSAGE 8

1. Casca described that Caesar was offered a crown thrice at the feast though it was declined each time it was offered.
2. Casca says that offering the crown and its decline by Caesar was all a more foolery. First, it was not a crown, it was just a garland of flowers. Second, Caesar rejected it, though he wished to have it. Three, he fell into falling sickness at the frenzy of the crowd.
3. Casca gave the information that the tribunes – Flavius and Marullus, were dismissed from their posts for pulling down decorations from Caesar image.
4. Brutus had a poor opinion of Casca. According to him, Casca had grown into a dull and stupid fellow, though he was quite sharp when he was at school. Cassius contradicts Brutus by saying that Casca is still quite dependable.
5. At the end of the scene Cassius says that though Brutus is a noble person, he is easily influenced by persons like him.