

JULIUS CAESAR: ACT I STUDY QUESTIONS

SCENE 1

1. What are the tribunes trying to make the crowd do?
2. Why are the common people celebrating?
3. How do the tribunes feel about Caesar?
4. How is the crowd showing its fickleness?
5. In what mood do the commoners leave?
6. Explain Flavius's last speech on p. 633. What is he saying about Caesar?

SCENE 2

1. What happens to the "barren" women if touched during the race?
2. Which character is running in the race?
3. What does the soothsayer warn Caesar of?
4. What might the warning be foreshadowing?
5. What does Brutus not want to do?
6. Why is Cassius concerned about Brutus? (32-36)
7. Why is Brutus not himself? (37-47)
8. What will Cassius reveal to Brutus? (66-78)
9. What does Brutus fear?
10. How does Brutus feel towards Caesar?
11. What does Brutus love more than death?
12. How does Cassius flatter Brutus? (90-93)
13. What conflict does Brutus reveal about Caesar in lines 95-99?
14. What are the two stories Cassius tells about Caesar and what does each seem to show about Caesar?
15. How does Cassius feel towards Caesar's power? (115-118)
16. Summarize the meaning in lines 139-143
17. What do Cassius and Brutus think the shout for?
18. Who does Cassius suggest to Brutus that he is as worthy as?
19. What does Cassius bring up about Brutus's ancestry?
20. In the lines at the bottom of 638, what do you think Cassius is hinting at?
21. Does Brutus understand what Cassius is getting at? (162-174)
22. What is Brutus's reaction to Cassius's plan?
23. What does Caesar say about Cassius, and what does this say about Caesar's opinion of Cassius?
24. Why does Cassius concern Caesar? (201-210)
25. Should Caesar be concerned about Cassius? Why?
26. What were the three shouts about?
27. Does Caesar want the crown even though he turns it down?
28. How would Cassius react to Caesar being crowned?
29. How is Caesar's physical weakness shown again while he is turning down the crown?
30. What does the crowd cheer for--Caesar taking or turning down the crown?
31. What sign of submission does Caesar give the crowd?
32. If he wants the crown, why doesn't he take it when offered?
33. How does Casca see the common people? (243-246)

34. Why are the two tribunes, Flavius and Marellus, punished?
35. Look at Cassius's last speech. What will he do to further convince Brutus to join his conspiracy?
36. Does Cassius seem manipulative or straightforward in his dealings with Brutus?
37. How, in general, do the powerful people seem to feel about the common people?
38. What do you think motivates Cassius--fear of Caesar's tyranny, jealousy of his power, or concern for Rome?

SCENE 3

1. What is the weather at the start of the scene?
2. How does Casca feel about the strange weather?
3. What might lines 11-13 foreshadow?
4. What strange things does Casca encounter and what does this say about the natural order of things?
5. What does Cicero mean in lines 33-36?
6. Why would Cassius say that the night is pleasing to an honest man?
7. How might the events of the night be differently interpreted?
8. What does Cassius feel the meaning of the storm is? (57-73)
9. Who is Cassius referring to in lines 72-78?
10. According to Casca, what do the senators intend to do the next day?
11. In lines 89-99, what is Cassius threatening to do to free himself from tyranny?
12. What is the one way that they can for certain free themselves from tyranny?
13. In what way is Cassius being critical of the people of Rome?
14. What, in this scene, does Cassius hope to convince Casca to do?
15. In lines 116-120, what agreement do Cassius and Casca come to?
16. How does Cassius describe their enterprise in line 124?
17. How else besides suicide can Cassius and the others free themselves?
18. Who does Cinna hope Cassius can win to their party?
19. Where are the conspirators going to meet that night?
20. How do they further hope to convince Brutus to join?
21. Why do they need Brutus? (157-160)?