

JULIUS CAESAR: ACT IV STUDY QUESTIONS

SCENE 1

1. What are Antony, Lepidus, and Octavius doing in the first nine lines of the scene?
2. Why does Antony want the will?
3. Why do you suppose they're having all of these people killed?
4. What does Antony think of Lepidus? What is he good for only?
5. What does Antony compare Lepidus to?
6. What news do we learn of Cassius and Brutus?
7. What must Antony and Octavius do to meet Cassius and Brutus?
8. What does Octavius mean in the last speech of the scene?
9. What characteristics does Antony show in this scene? Are they admirable?

SCENE 2

1. Why does Brutus want to meet with Cassius? (6-10)
2. How did Cassius greet Lucilius when Brutus sent him to meet Cassius? (15-18)
3. What does Brutus suspect of Cassius when he hears how Cassius treated Lucilius? (18-19)
4. What observation about human nature does Brutus make in lines 20-27?
5. Where do Cassius and Brutus intend to stop?
6. What does Cassius accuse Brutus of? Line 37
7. What does Brutus mean in lines 38-39?
8. Why do they go into a tent to argue?
9. What seems to be happening to this conspiracy?
10. Why do you think Brutus and Cassius have raised armies?

SCENE 3

1. What has Brutus done to wrong Cassius? (1-5)
2. How does Cassius defend his action of defending the man who took bribes? (7-8)
3. What does Brutus accuse Cassius of in lines 9-12?
4. What does Cassius threaten in his response?
5. Why is Brutus so angry with Cassius for taking bribes? (18-27)
6. How does Brutus react to Cassius's display of temper? (42-49)
7. Again, what does Cassius threaten in lines 63-64?
8. Why is Brutus not afraid of Cassius's threats? (65-69)
9. Why else is Brutus angry with Cassius? (69-77)
10. Think about this. Brutus has just criticized Cassius for taking bribes. Now he criticizes him for not sending him money--that Cassius has raised only through bribes. Brutus claims to no be able to raise money this way because it is dishonest. What does this reveal about Brutus, and how does it affect your feelings about him?
11. How does Cassius defend himself against Brutus's claims that he denied him money?
12. Why does Cassius claim to be weary of the world? (95-98)
13. What does Cassius claim he wants Cassius to do to him? Why?
14. How does Brutus explain his angry comments to Cassius? (109-112)
15. What happens between Brutus and Cassius in lines 107-122?
16. What excuse does Cassius give for his rash comments? (117-119)

17. What does Cassius reveal about himself when he shows his need for Brutus's friendship? Does this alter your view of him?
18. In the quarrel, whose side were you on and why?
19. Notice that the issue of the bribery was not resolved. Does this show a weakness in Brutus's character that he lets Cassius off the hook?
20. Is all fair in love and war? In other words, is Cassius justified in taking bribes due to his present situation?
21. Is Brutus's honor tarnished in this scene at all? Explain.
22. What do you think this argument indicates about the situation Brutus and Cassius find themselves in?
23. "Stoicism" is the name of a philosophy that states that you should always control your emotions and remain in control even in the face of the most terrible things, that you should submit to and accept fate, and that you should live life according to reason and duty. How does Brutus not live up to this philosophy in this scene, and how does he live up to this philosophy in this scene?
24. What shocking news does Brutus reveal in line 145?
25. What do you think of Brutus's response to his wife's death? Does it make him more or less admirable in his eyes, and why?
26. How does Portia die, and why?
27. What does Brutus learn of Octavius and Antony? (165-168)
28. What other news does Messala reveal about Octavius and Lepidus? (171-173)
29. There seems to be an error in this script in lines 186-190. What is it?
30. What does Cassius think of marching to Philippi to meet Antony and Octavius? What reason does he give in lines 197-200?
31. What reasons does Brutus give in lines 201-222 for marching to meet the armies at Philippi?
32. Giving what you know about the judgment of Brutus and Cassius, whose side would you be on in this dispute?
33. If Cassius is the "older" soldier, as he claims in lines 30-32, why does he give in to Brutus here in military matters, much like he did in regards to Antony?
34. Why does Brutus want Varro and Claudius to sleep in his tent? (244-246)
35. What happens to Lucius as he plays?
36. How does Brutus treat Lucius in this scene?
37. What supernatural event occurs late in the scene?
38. Does anyone besides Caesar see the ghost?
39. What does Caesar's ghost tell Brutus?
40. Do you think he really saw a ghost, or is there some psychological reason for this?
41. What might this ghost foreshadow?