

Name: _____
English 10H

Hamlet Review Questions

Act 3

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences in your literature notes.

1. What do Rosencrantz and Guildenstern tell the king and queen about Hamlet? (p.123)
2. What does Gertrude tell Ophelia (p.125)?
3. On p.127, Hamlet gives his famous soliloquy, "To be or not to be..." What great question is he asking here? What is he contemplating?
4. What does Ophelia return to Hamlet? Why? Note the significance of the line: "Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind." What does she mean by this?
5. How does Hamlet treat Ophelia in Act 3? Give examples. Why does he treat her this way?
6. If you were Ophelia, how would you feel about Hamlet at this point?
7. Explain the significance of Hamlet's line: "I have heard of your paintings too, well enough. God hath give you one face, and you make yourselves another." Who is he talking to here? Explain.
8. Explain the significance of the final line of 3.1: "Madness in great ones must not unwatched go." What can you infer about the king from this line?
9. How does Claudius react during the play within the play?
10. Why doesn't Hamlet kill Claudius while he is praying? What is ironic about Hamlet's decision not to kill the king?
11. What images does Hamlet use to describe his mother's behavior?
12. How does Hamlet react to his murder of Polonius? What might this suggest about him?
13. At this point in the play, do you think Hamlet is mad, or merely acting mad? Explain your answer using support from the text.