

NB Line references are taken from the Longman edition.

Act 5 Scene 1

1. Why does Iago decide Roderigo must be killed?
2. What reasons does he also give for wanting to ensure Cassio is killed?
3. What insults does Othello give about Desdemona in lines 31-36?
4. What are Roderigo's final words to Iago? Can you explore them?
5. Who else does Iago try to implicate in the attack on Cassio?
6. What impression does the audience receive of Bianca in this scene?

Act 5 Scene 2

1. What imagery does Othello use to describe Desdemona in his opening soliloquy? Explain his thoughts at this point.
2. How does Desdemona react to Othello in this scene?
3. How is tension built in this scene?
4. Look at Othello's speech beginning on line 91. What impression do we receive about his state of mind?
5. Why do you think Desdemona will not say Othello killed her?
6. Othello says Desdemona was 'false as water', and Emilia claims he is 'rash as fire'. What makes these similes effective?
7. How does Emilia react to the news that it was Iago who told Othello that Desdemona had been unfaithful?
8. What insults does Emilia hurl at Othello in this scene?
9. How does Iago treat Emilia?
10. What do we learn about Brabantio in lines 202-207?
11. What impression do we get of Othello in lines 258-279?
12. What does Othello suggest about Iago in lines 283-284?
13. Why do you think Iago refuses to explain himself?
14. What does Othello ask in his final speech before he stabs himself? How does he describe himself?