

ACT 4 Scene 1, 2

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. c. Lepidus
2. b. The names of the dissidents to be executed
3. c. Duplicitousness and ruthlessness
4. b. Lepidus was devoid of passion and enthusiasm.
5. b. Lepidus wanted Publius to be killed as well.
6. c. Antony intended to redirect some of the wealth in order to finance their war against Cassius and Brutus.
7. d. Running errands and attending to minor tasks
8. c. A letter from Cassius
9. b. Brutus had wronged him.
- 10.a. Brutus did not want their armies to witness any friction.

Section B: Context-based Questions

1. a. This conversation takes place in a house in Rome. Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus had come together to fight Brutus and Cassius's forces to avenge Caesar's death. They were at the cusp of forming the Second Triumvirate in Rome which would entail the three of them sharing political power.
 - a. By 'These many', Antony was referring to the list containing the names of several dissidents who were not aligned with Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus. Their 'names [were] prick'd' which meant that had been

condemned to death by the three of them. Apart from Lepidus's brother, Antony's sister's son, Publius, is condemned as an outcome of the conversation.

- b. Antony asked Lepidus to go to Caesar's residence to retrieve the will Caesar had left behind. Caesar had bequeathed a lot of his assets to the people of Rome and Antony intended to redirect some of it to finance the war they had waged against Brutus and Cassius. Antony's intention exposes his unscrupulous nature and politic.
- c. Immediately after Lepidus had been sent away to Caesar's house, Antony alleged that Lepidus was an insignificant and unworthy man who was only suitable for doing minor tasks. Perhaps to test the waters, Antony goes on to ask Octavius whether he felt Lepidus was worthy of being a part of the triumvirate that would possibly have influence over a large part of the world. Octavius was surprised that Antony's insinuation that Lepidus be sidelined since Lepidus's opinions had been taken into consideration while making a list of men to be executed.
- d. Antony had shrewdly managed to gain audience with the conspirators right after they had assassinated Caesar. He had done so by approaching Brutus who was known for his honourable nature, knowing full well that Brutus took pride in his reputation and would ensure Antony's safety. Antony had shaken hands with each of the conspirators — thus identifying them by their bloodstained hands and arms. Additionally, he managed to get permission to address the commoners which helped him gather

strength and influence to execute his vengeance against the conspirators. Antony intended to use Lepidus to achieve his goals and Octavius's, by making Lepidus share the burdens of the ensuing war but none of the spoils of victory. Antony had swayed the commoners by revealing to them about what Caesar had bequeathed to them in his will, but in Act 4 we discover Antony redirecting some of the assets to finance the war against Brutus and Cassius.

2. a. Lepidus is initially imagined as a beast of burden which would carry the blame but not be rewarded with any portion of the treasure/wealth/spoils. It would be dismissed once it was done performing the needed service and sent to graze in the fields. Antony later compares Lepidus to a war horse which is tended to and taught how to fight — one which responds to all instructions and whose physical motions is controlled by the owner/rider. Antony's comments reveal his manipulative nature as well as his disdain for Lepidus.
- b. Antony recommended that Lepidus be talked about only as property since he did not wish to humanize Lepidus and recognize him as an equal, especially when there were pressing issues to be dealt with. Antony wanted to discuss how Brutus and Cassius were gathering powers and assembling an army. He wanted to combine Octavius, Lepidus, and his armies, validate and confirm their allies, and take stock of their resources.

- c. Antony states that Lepidus was suitable for performing minor tasks but unfit for sharing power with Octavius and him. He had suggested this once Lepidus had left to retrieve Caesar's will, as requested by Antony. After this scene, Lepidus is markedly absent, and the audience is left to wonder about his fate.
- d. In response to Antony's claim of Lepidus's unsuitability as a peer in the Second Triumvirate, Octavius reasonably asks why Lepidus's opinions had been regarded when they were drawing up a list of dissenters condemned to die. Additionally, Octavius submitted that Lepidus was a courageous and experienced soldier who could prove useful, though he said that Antony could do as he pleased. This shows that Octavius was a rational and prudent strategist who was assessing the strength of the alliance, while trying to avoid any friction with Antony.
- e. In Act 5 Sc 1, Octavius observes how Antony speaks of Lepidus disdainfully in his absence, after having given Lepidus the impression that he was about to become a part of the imminent Second Triumvirate. Antony's marked deviousness and condescension is noted, spurring Octavius to question the rationale behind Antony speaking derisively of a courageous and experienced soldier whose opinions Antony had just sought. Strategically, Octavius does not challenge Antony. Octavius refocuses attention on their need of strengthening their alliance in the face of enemies and deceptive but friendly faces. In Act 5, Octavius firmly states that he had no intention of contradicting Antony, but Octavius would pursue what he was

determined to do, irrespective of Antony's perspective — consistent but more resolved in his approach.

3. a. These lines were directed at Lucilius. Brutus says this when Lucilius informs him of the formality, instead of friendliness, with which he had been treated at Cassius's camp. Brutus's growing annoyance at decisions made by Cassius had prompted these comments.
- b. An extended metaphor of war horses runs through the lines given. It is especially apt since Brutus and Cassius were about to go to war with Antony and Octavius. Brutus insinuates that a shallow man is like a deceptive horse that exhibits great spirit and temperament when led by hand, and presents a grand show, only to let one down at a decisive juncture which leads to utter ruin. Such men fail when they are tested, like crestfallen horses. It is interesting to note that Antony had compared Lepidus to a war horse that was meant to be seen as property to be put to use. In both instances, a war horse stood for an ally the speaker was at odds with.
- c. In these lines, Brutus is referring to Cassius, his ally against Antony and Octavius, and the friend who had first broached the subject of Caesar's rapid ascent to power — and the need to stem any possibility of tyranny in Rome. Brutus held a grudge against Cassius for allowing men like Lucius

Pella extract bribes from the people of Sardis, as well as refusing to send Brutus gold to pay the men in his army.

- d. Lepidus and Cassius are compared to war horses by Antony and Brutus, respectively. Brutus was bitter about Cassius's behaviour and was feeling let down by a friend who had once appeared to hold great promise. For Antony, Lepidus was an ally to be taken advantage of and discarded once they had emerged victorious. For Brutus, a war horse represented a potentially deceptive friend, while for Antony it represented a resource to be used as per one's need. The context of war informs both the usages of the 'war horse' metaphor.
- e. Cassius was the friend who had helped Brutus arrive at the conclusion that drastic measures had to be taken to prevent Caesar from being crowned. In the given lines, we find that the friendship had soured over what Brutus viewed as Cassius's ethical and moral failures. Cassius is compared to a war horse which initially shows great promise but lets the rider down at a critical moment. In a play where a close friend betrays and kills another (Brutus – Caesar), it is interesting that Brutus bemoans insincerity. Antony's friendship with Caesar is the only one that truly sustains throughout the play. The other associations presented are diplomatic political alliances or friendships which are fraught with tension.

ACT 4 Scene 3

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. b. Lucius Pella been 'condemn'd and noted' by Brutus.
2. c. He wanted to remind Cassius's of the principle behind Caesar's assassination.
3. c. Hypocrisy
4. b. Stoicism
5. c. They share a bowl of wine.
6. d. Cicero
7. b. Maritime
8. a. (iv), (ii), (iii), (i)
9. d. Brutus's evil spirit
10. b. Brutus asks Cassius to start off with his forces earlier than planned.

Section B: Context-based Questions

1. a. The emotion conveyed by Cassius is that of indignation and resentment. Accusations levied against him by Brutus had compelled Cassius to make the given declaration.

b. Cassius's estimation of Brutus and Caesar's friendship in the given lines holds true since Brutus had indeed killed Caesar for what he believed to be a noble cause. Brutus did love Caesar, but as per his justification, he had assassinated him to deter the progression of a tyrannical dictatorship

in Rome. Even after Caesar's death, Brutus held him in high regard because of what he perceived as Caesar's moral compass, military prowess, and honour.

- c. Cassius was 'awearied of the world' since he has become the object of Brutus's hatred. He was being confronted and chided by Brutus and that caused him great injury. Cassius felt that Brutus was rebuking him like he (Cassius) was a slave, especially since Brutus had listed all of Cassius's alleged faults and hurled them at Cassius like a missile.
- d. Cassius and Brutus were allied against Antony and Octavius; the latter alliance wanted to avenge Caesar's assassination that had been executed by the former alliance. One can infer that Cassius's declaration was more of an expression of exasperation with Brutus, and not an earnest desire. At the end of the play, Cassius, to avoid death at the hands of Antony-Octavius, had ended his own life.
- e. Right from the moment Brutus first justified his role in the assassination of Caesar publicly, Brutus appears to be influenced by Caesar. He had taken utmost care to separate Caesar — the friend whose qualities Brutus admired and held in high regard — and the man who possibly wanted to be crowned as the monarch of Rome. Brutus used this distinction to justify the assassination of a would-be tyrant. While the other conspirators might not have had noble intentions like Brutus, he held onto his belief in the cause till the very end. Brutus encounters Caesar's ghost twice — once at Sardis and another time, at Philippi. At Sardis, the ghost's presence, and its forewarning of a second interaction at Philippi,

had prompted Brutus to get the army to march to Philippi earlier than the generals had planned. Its presence at Philippi, Brutus believed, presaged his defeat and death.

2. a. By 'itching palm' Cassius refers to Brutus's accusations regarding Cassius's greed which had encouraged him to accept bribes. Cassius, in order to raise funds for the ensuing war they were about to wage, had indeed been pursuing unprincipled means. He had accepted bribes in exchange for official posts. Cassius had also asked Brutus to forgive Lucius Pella's actions which Brutus had publicly condemned.
- b. Cassius was accused of hobnobbing with the likes of Lucius Pella who had accepted bribes from the Sardians and extorted money. Additionally, and by extension, Cassius was accused of granting undeserving people official posts in exchange for bribes which would then be used to fund the war against Octavius and Antony. Brutus also accused Cassius of not sending the funds Brutus needed to pay his legions, and that that denial had been humiliating for the latter.
- c. Brutus was desperate for funds in the form of gold because he needed to pay the troops he was about to lead into battle against Antony and Octavius. He was unable to raise the fund himself since he couldn't bring himself to raise money through dishonourable means, unlike Cassius. Brutus's inability reveals that he was a rigidly moral person who would not compromise his integrity at any cost.

- d. The tension between Brutus and Cassius began to dissolve gradually after Cassius had unsheathed his dagger, declared that Brutus bore more affection towards the tyrannical Caesar as opposed to Cassius, and that he, Cassius, was willing to be stabbed with the dagger if he had indeed refused to give Brutus the gold he needed to pay his troops. Brutus mellows after Cassius's outburst and admits to being ill-tempered and subject to oscillating moods. The 'jigging' poet provides a much-needed comic interlude before the remaining part of the scene which presents darker themes.
 - e. While Brutus categorically chides Cassius for accepting bribes and coercing funds from the people in Sardis, Brutus lacks self-reflexivity. He does appear to recognize that he had requested Cassius for funds sourced through these very same dishonourable means. Brutus's moral rigidity attempts to eclipse his hypocrisy since the audience is informed of Brutus's renowned honour and respectability early in the play. However, this brief argument between generals exposes Brutus's hypocrisy, or perhaps his blinding naivety, since he appears to be blithely unaware of how their war was being funded.
3. a. Apart from Brutus and Lucius, Varro and Claudius were in the tent since Brutus wanted them to be around and have them sleep in his tent. Brutus felt that he might need to convey occasional urgent messages to Cassius through them. Claudius and Varro were officers attending to Brutus.

- b. Brutus promises Lucius that if he were to survive the war with Octavius and Antony, he would be good to Lucius. Brutus bears a paternal attitude towards Lucius. We find him being thoroughly considerate of Lucius while instructing him and being genuinely appreciative of his services.
- c. Brutus encounters Caesar's ghost twice in the course of the play. Brutus is left shaken by Caesar's first appearance which influences his military decisions. His blood turns cold, and his hair stand up, when he encounters the ghost and questions it. The ghost foreshadows their next meeting at Philippi, and Brutus, in a kneejerk reaction, urges Cassius to get his forces to march towards Philippi earlier than they had previously planned. Ergo, their armies were not adequately rested before the final battle.
- d. In Brutus's absence, Portia had become distraught, and with the news of Antony and Octavius's growing military strength, her condition worsened. Portia eventually died at her own hands when her attendants were away. Octavius, Antony, and Lepidus had introduced laws and a regime which put around seventy-hundred senators to death, including Cicero.
- e. Cassius had recommended that their armies remain in Sardis so that their opponent would have to expend their energy and resources by marching to Sardis, where Cassius and Brutus had camped; the latter would be better rested, and their resources would be preserved. Brutus dismisses this suggestion since the people living in the area between Sardis and Philippi had been helping Brutus-Cassius begrudgingly and given the opportunity, they would join Antony and Octavius's armies on their march to Sardis. Instead, if Brutus and Cassius were to march to Philippi, they

would have left those commoners behind. With their enemy's numbers expanding, Brutus and Cassius's armies at their best, and their conviction and undertaking mature and rounded, Brutus was convinced of their imminent success. The ghost's appearance influences Brutus into urging Cassius to order his army to march earlier than previously agreed upon. As a result, neither Brutus nor Cassius led well-rested armies to the final battlefield.