

## ACT 5 Scenes 1, 2

### Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. d.
2. a. The flag being displayed by Brutus and Cassius's faction.
3. b. Philippi
4. c. He had managed to influence the Roman commoners to rally against the conspirators.
5. d. Thirty-three
6. c. Pompey had been compelled to go to war.
7. b.
8. b. Cassius was losing faith in himself and sought explanations through omens.
9. c. Brutus was determined to commit suicide to prevent being captured alive.
10. c. Brutus's military acuity becomes apparent here.

### Section B: Context-based Questions

1. a. By 'I am in their bosoms', Antony attempts to convey that he had thorough understanding of what their opposition, Brutus and Cassius, were likely to execute, and why, since he believed he knew the weaknesses in their nature. The tone of the lines is one of pride, confidence, and utter disdain for the enemy. Despite his confidence, Antony's initial estimation had been wrong and is flagged by Octavius.
- b. Cassius had cautioned Brutus against marching their armies to Philippi and exhausting their energies and resources; he wanted the enemy to expend themselves before the final battle. Brutus had overruled Cassius, a seasoned soldier, asserting that the resentful common residents of stretch of plains between Sardis and Philippi were likely to join the opposition's army and buttress their forces. The appearance of Caesar's ghost had made a restless Brutus ask Cassius to start off earlier than planned.
- c. In Act 5 Sc 1, Octavius sharply points out the inaccuracy of Antony's estimation regarding the approach likely to be taken by Brutus and Cassius.

When Antony asks Octavius to lead his army from the left side of the field, Octavius counters him and coolly asserts that he would be taking the right side, and that Antony should take the left. When crossly questioned by Antony who felt opposed at a critical moment, Octavius firmly maintains his ground while reassuring Antony.

- d. Octavius and Antony learnt of Brutus and Cassius's arrival through a messenger. The messenger describes the latter's troops marching in bravely towards their camp. He mentions that they've come bearing the red flag used as a Roman battle signal. Their 'gallant show' might have been arranged to display their own courage and strike fear in the hearts of their opposition.
  - e. Though Octavius appears rather late in the play, his presence is pronounced. Right from the beginning of their association, Antony appears to be reporting to him. Octavius does not offer misplaced suggestions or dominate the conversation between the generals. Instead, like a keen diplomat, he chooses to listen to the interaction between Lepidus and Antony, interrupting only when he notices how both coldly list names of people to be put to death. He shrewdly observes Antony's unscrupulous and calculative nature. Before the final battle, Octavius boldly stands his ground and refuses to go along with Antony's directions. After the battle, like a true statesman, he allows Brutus's body to be kept in his camp overnight and then be buried with honour. More youthful than Antony, and clearly more pragmatic than Brutus, Octavius emerges as a leader by the end of the play.
2. a. Cassius refers to Antony as 'this tongue', which could also be a reference to Antony's oratorical skills. Cassius felt that Brutus was to blame for Antony's presence on the battlefield since Brutus had overruled Cassius's suggestion that Antony be killed alongside Caesar because of his unwavering allegiance towards the would-be dictator.
- b. Cassius had been overruled by Brutus when he had suggested that Mark Antony be assassinated alongside his friend and mentor, Caesar. Cassius also did not wish to allow Antony to address the Roman public, especially after everyone else had so, yet Brutus had rejected his advice. At Sardis, Cassius had warned against marching to Philippi and expending their resources and

energy, but Brutus insisted that they do so. The course of the play would have altered had Brutus had paid heed to Cassius's astute suggestions.

- c. Octavius suggests that instead of exchanging barbs, they commit to taking action and instead of sweating over words, they shed blood on the battlefield. His vow to not sheath the sword drawn against the conspirators till Caesar's brutal death had been avenged, or he had succumbed, shows his determination as well as his commitment towards the cause. He is clearly a man of action, not impotent words.
  - d. Cassius and Brutus, and the other conspirators, are accused of being flatterers. Antony accuses them of flattery since they had been fawning over Caesar, smiling at his words, kowtowing like slaves and kissing Caesar's feet. The cabal of conspirators had indeed been surrounding Caesar from the morning of the ides of March till the moment when they assassinated him brutally. With their unyielding attention, they had kept Caesar surrounded, and had isolated him from his well-wishers — like Calpurnia, Artemidorus, and the soothsayer.
  - e. The 'cause' mentioned by Octavius was his and Antony's pursuit of avenging the death of Julius Caesar, while Brutus and Cassius's publicly proclaimed 'cause' was to protect Rome from a possibly tyrannical monarch. While Brutus's motivations might have been to earnestly protect the people of Rome, there is ample evidence in the play that suggests that Cassius might have initiated the conspiracy to assassinate Caesar because of personal jealousies and rancour. Antony had redirected some of the wealth bequeathed to the public of Rome by Caesar towards their war efforts. Cassius had accepted bribes to fund his faction, possibly through Lucius Pella, in exchange for official posts.
3. a. The dissolution of the First Triumvirate was confirmed when Pompey and Caesar's contending forces met in battle, as referred to at the beginning of the play. Pompey was compelled by Caesar to fight the battle of Pharsalia against his better judgment and Caesar defeated him. Cassius confesses that he was going to war against his will since under pressure, he too, had started

believing in signs and what they portended. He was unwilling to go to battle since he was concerned that their faction was going to die.

- b. Shakespeare's play begins at the point where we find the commoners in Rome welcoming Caesar after he had defeated Pompey at Pharsalus, thus ending the civil war; the tribunes, Flavius and Marullus, chide the commoners for doing so. The conspirators had even convened a meeting at Pompey's porch to discuss Caesar's ousting. Caesar had condemned Caius Ligarius for speaking in support of Pompey, and Publius Cimber had been banished for siding with Pompey — both played critical roles in Caesar's assassination. The conspirators had even left Caesar's lifeless body at the foot of Pompey's statue. Apart from the motivations of the Brutus-Cassius and Octavius-Antony factions, Pompey and Caesar had indeed polarized the people of Rome.
- c. Cassius confides in Messala, and not Brutus, since he did not wish to bring down the morale of the other person leading their armies. Messala was a close friend whom Cassius could trust as a confidant and seek reassurance. Messala, at the end of the play, in all likelihood taken into Octavius's service, since the latter valued those who had remained loyal to Brutus and served him well.
- d. The tone of Brutus and Cassius's last conversation is one of cautious hope for a favourable outcome on the battlefield. Underneath his careful projection of confidence, Cassius's fears regarding their failure can be found festering. Brutus had deemed Cato, his wife's father, cowardly since he had chosen to kill himself instead of facing the challenging consequences that had emerged.
- e. Messala learns that on the way from Sardis, there were two eagles that perched on their ensign. These birds of prey accepted food from the hands of the soldiers, and they accompanied the army to Philippi. Upon arriving the eagles left, and ravens, crows and kites — birds of ill omen — started hovering above the men as if they were likely to die. Cassius had interpreted this shift as a portent of their failure on the battlefield. Cassius had probably relinquished his Epicurean philosophy because he might have thought that he was facing a certain death. His hopelessness in the face of the enemy maybe have driven him to believe in omens and portents.

4. a. In *Julius Caesar*, Messala reported primarily to Brutus, but he was also taken into Cassius's confidence. The bills contained Brutus's observations regarding Octavius's army. There were legions on the other side since Cassius's army was fighting their enemy forces there.
- b. Brutus's instructions were directed at Cassius's forces. He wanted them to double down and fight harder since it had appeared to Brutus that Octavius's forces were losing steam.
- c. During the generals' confrontation in the previous scene, Octavius had declared that he was not going to die on Brutus's sword, and that he was more inclined to battle than exchange words. He had even challenged them to show their courage on the battlefield. Octavius's assertion about his death might have been taken on as a challenge by Brutus, especially because Octavius was Caesar's heir.
- d. Cassius and Brutus had dismissed Octavius as a 'peevish schoolboy' who was not deserving of the honour of dying by Brutus's sword. They repeatedly called him 'young Octavius' since they probably considered him inexperienced and therefore, weak. The audience, aware of Octavius's maturity, astuteness, and judicious nature, are not taken in by Cassius and Brutus's perspectives.
- e. The purpose of Act 5 Sc 2 is to provide a sense of pace since it introduces the audience to the battlefield. The urgency in Brutus's tone conveys the heightened mood of the scene which is carried forward to the scene that follows. One learns of the layout of the battlefield, and that Brutus was keenly observing the progress of the final battle. The crescendo of the raging moments of the battle, followed by the resigned quietness of Brutus-Cassius's recognition of their defeat, creates for a dynamic pace in the last act of this play. The two battlefield scenes that follow Act 5 Sc 2 depict the raging battle, the fighters' bravery and well-tested allegiances, as well as Brutus and Cassius's final and absolute defeat despite their best efforts.
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## ACT 5 Scene 3

### Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. c. The soldier was deserting and was carrying their flag.
2. b. Weak eyesight
3. c. Attentive and obedient
4. d. Titinius, pun
5. b. Messala did not want Titinius to blame himself.
6. d. It shows that Cassius had developed and nurtured an intimate bond with Titinius.
7. a. A wreath
8. c. Pindarus's life had been spared in Parthia upon the condition that he would do as Cassius ordered.
9. a. He was bemoaning his cowardice and Titinius being captured.
10. d. Freedom

### Section B: Context-based Questions

1. a. Cassius had previously mentioned that that day was the day he was born while confiding in Messala about his fears. This repetition is significant since it once again exposes Cassius's fears and their imminent defeat confirms his trepidations. It shows how Cassius was resigning to his fate and death.
- b. Pindarus's dutifulness for Cassius becomes apparent when he rushes Cassius away from his tents that Antony had managed to set on fire. Pindarus follows Cassius's every instruction without fail since he had been imprisoned and taken on as a slave after a battle at Parthia and had been promised his life in exchange for his service as a slave. He does not prevent Cassius's death by his own sword since it would mean that he, Pindarus, would once again be a free man.
- c. Cassius had sent Titinius away to find out if the troops he had spotted at a distance were friendly or otherwise. Pindarus shares the flawed and incorrect information that Titinius had been captured by the enemy troops. Cassius is devastated by this news since he considered Titinius his best

friend. Titinius's alleged demise tips the scale to the extent that Cassius gives by all hope, and wallowing in regret and defeat, he ends his life.

- d. Throughout the course of the play, the audience learns of Cassius's shrewdness when it comes to politics. While planning for the battle, we find him advising Brutus accurately, twice. However, though the older among the two, he fails to persuade his partner to follow his sound recommendations. Cassius's generals and soldiers appear to hold him in high regard. Nonetheless, at one point of the battle, they had both overthrown Antony and Octavius's armies, which Messala believed to be the news that would please Cassius.
  - e. Cassius comes across as a nearly broken man in Act 5 Sc 3. While he had made much of Caesar's physical infirmities, the audience learns of Cassius's poor eyesight in this scene. Apart from his physical condition, Cassius exhibits a compromised and vulnerable emotional state. He circles back to the reflection he had shared before the battle, which had revealed the negative thoughts circling in his mind. He had let go of his rational self and Epicurean philosophy and embraced a superstitious disposition regarding the battle even before it began. While he does recognize his weaknesses, Cassius does not attempt to reframe his thoughts and summon the courage to keep fighting the enemy forces after being incorrectly informed of how Titinius had been captured by them.
2. a. Messala's concern shows that he was cared for Titinius and that he wanted to keep Titinius buoyant. Messala's attempt does not succeed since Titinius, heartbroken over Cassius's unexpected death prompted by unintentional misinformation, kills himself using Cassius's sword.
- b. The evocative extended metaphor used in the given lines is one of birth and death. 'Melancholy' conceived and births of 'Error' who in turn kills 'Melancholy'. The other figure of speech that can be identified in these lines is personification where 'Melancholy' and 'Error' have been endowed with human characteristics.

- c. Brutus had asked Titinius to congratulate Cassius and gift him a wreath of victory for his success. Titinius performs it as expected and does so ruefully over Cassius's corpse. We learn that Titinius was faithful and bore allegiance to Cassius. He was reciprocally attached to Cassius and followed him in death. We learn that Titinius was an emotional, loyal, and generous person.
  - d. Messala was expected to inform Brutus of Cassius's suicide prompted by inaccurate information. He expected Brutus to be as hurt by the news he would have been if had he been attacked with a sharp steel weapon or a poisoned dart. Brutus expresses his regrets in a stoic fashion and acknowledges the gravity of situation and the loss. Bravely, Brutus rallies his forces and returns to the battlefield.
  - e. Cassius's death arouses both pity and revulsion since the audience discovers a man, who was once a sharp and shrewd political organizer, suspending his rationality as well as his belief in Epicurean philosophy in favour of superstitions, irrational apprehensions, and cowardice. Without verifying, in a heightened emotional state, Cassius dies on the sword he had used to stab Julius Caesar, in a rather poetic motion. Brutus does not waver when he hears of Cassius's suicide, unlike the latter who had crumbled at the thought of Titinius's death. Brutus bravely fights till the end and kills himself, precisely in the manner followed by Cassius; both think of Julius Caesar in their dying moments. Cassius's slave, Pindarus, assists him in his final endeavour. Clitus, Dardanius, and Volumnius refuse to assist Brutus out of their deep respect and affection for him. Strato, in the absence of the three generals/friends because of the commotion caused by the battle, assents to helping Brutus.
3. a. Cassius and Titinius are acclaimed as 'The last of all the Romans' for their faithful service to the cause and their dedication towards Rome. Cassius had actively organised key political players against the possibility of a tyrannical leader at the helm, and Titinius had shown bravery on the battlefield. However, this laudatory comment feels misplaced since both had not tried to see the battle till its end.



- b. In *Julius Caesar*, a Roman is expected to exude values like honour, duty and commitment to the polis. Cassius had felt that people in Rome had lost such qualities since they could not stand up to Caesar's seemingly imminent rise to monarchy. Brutus and Cassius were seen upholding respectable Roman values when they worked towards the protection of the republic from tyranny, despite their role in the assassination of Caesar. Mark Antony had questioned the 'nobleness' of the Roman public when he wanted them to question Caesar's assassination, given that Caesar had been good to them.
  - c. Brutus was a follower of the Stoic philosophy which encouraged self-control, detachment, and fortitude in the face of adversity. Stoicism recommends that people build and practice resilience and endurance in order to remain composed. While Brutus had been confrontational and accusatory with regards to Cassius at the beginning of Act 4 Scene 3, the audience learns of Portia's suicide. Though faced with the inevitability of loss, Brutus goes back to the battlefield after Cassius and Titinius's deaths.
  - d. Brutus orders his people to transport Cassius's mortal remains to Thasos, an island near Philippi. He ensures that Cassius's funeral doesn't take place in their camp, lest it cause discomfort and distress amongst the troops. Brutus then leads his men back to the battlefield for a second round of combat. All three of these decisions reflect Brutus's rational and stoic nature.
  - e. After his death, Cassius is praised and referred to as a 'sun of Rome' which had set and unleashed a gloomy and dangerous time. Titinius expresses his fear that their faction was done for. Brutus declares that Cassius, as a Roman, was unmatched, and was possibly the last of all Romans, along with Titinius. Brutus, upon his death, is declared the noblest Roman of the whole cabal of conspirators since he truly cared for the general public's interests instead of personal ones. Mark Antony recognizes and honours Brutus's nobility and other qualities. Octavius honours Brutus by having his body rest in his tent that night, so that he could later be buried in accordance with the proper rites. We learn that while Cassius was seen as a respectable Roman by his friends and followers, Brutus was universally admired as a Roman ideal because of his virtues and nobility.
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## ACT 5 Scene 4, 5

### Section A: Multiple Choice Questions

1. c. He wanted to inspire his compatriots to fight.
2. b. He wanted to distract the soldiers who were hunting for Brutus.
3. c. Lucilius
4. d. He refuses to help Brutus kill himself.
5. c. The appearance of the ghost of Caesar
6. a. Volumnius
7. d. Employ them
8. c. Brutus
9. c. Brutus believed that his cause was still just and worthy
10. d. Nature

### Section B: Context-based Questions

1. a. Lucilius had claimed that Brutus was safe since he firmly believed that Brutus, dead or alive, would remain true to his nature and not be captured and subject to any dishonour. Lucilius had posed as Brutus so that their adversary would kill him and enjoy false joy and pride at having done so. This would also help buy Brutus some more time on the battlefield with the adversary distracted by the news of his death. Lucilius's act shows his profound love and affection for Brutus.
- b. According to Lucilius, Brutus being captured alive would be a great shame. One can glean that being defeated, and captured alive, is a source of great shame. One could prevent this experience of shame by killing oneself. Additionally, it is important to note that before the commencement of the battle, Brutus had shared that he had found Cato's solution, of killing oneself to prevent capture and subsequent humiliation, an act of cowardice.

- c. Antony reacts to Lucilius's statement in a generous fashion and ensures his safety since he wanted to count men like Lucilius amongst his friends, not enemies. He calls Lucilius a prize who was no less than the man who led him, and he instructs his soldiers to treat Lucilius with kindness.
  - d. The soldiers brought Lucilius to Antony since they had been misled by Lucilius into believing that he was indeed Brutus. The soldiers knew about Brutus and his nobility, and they had therefore refused to kill him after he had yielded. Lucilius had declared that he would yield upon the condition that he be killed immediately.
  - e. In Act 5, when the Antony-Octavius and Brutus-Cassius factions meet before the final battle, they speak of honour and courage. There's honour for Young Cato when he dies, not simply because he fights bravely and achieves martyrdom, but because he is Cato's son. Lucilius misleads his adversary into believing that he was indeed Brutus, and that in killing him, the soldiers would gain honour. Honour does indeed propel the plot of *Julius Caesar* since the key conspirators were convinced of their own honourable nature and Roman qualities. To protect his honour, Brutus kills himself to avoid the ignominy of being captured by the adversary.
2. a. Brutus says the given line since he had realized that his adversaries had cornered him and his closest allies, and were then about to go in for the kill. The metaphor used is that of hunting, when the hunted animals is driven to a trapping hole in the ground. Earlier in Act 4 of the play, Octavius had claimed that he was being 'Bay'd about' by enemies, that is, he was surrounded and cornered like an animal.
- b. Brutus decides to commit suicide when he realises that Octavius and Antony were invariably going to emerge victorious. Instead of surrendering to them, Brutus decides to end his life, especially given that he had lost his closest ally, Cassius, as well as his wife, Portia. Earlier in the play, Brutus has looked down upon Cato's suicide, calling it an expression of cowardice and an escape. Given that he was facing insurmountable odds, Brutus's feelings about it altered; thus, Brutus change of heart was directly linked to the circumstances he was facing.

- c. Dardanius, Clitus, and Volumnius refused to assist Brutus out of admiration and affection for their noble leader and valued friend. Their refusal shows that they held Brutus in high regard, notwithstanding his impending loss. Strato, who had been asleep throughout Brutus's conversations with the others, agrees to help Brutus execute his plan.
  - d. 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. Brutus encounters Caesar's ghost twice — once at Sardis and another time, at Philippi. The appearance of Caesar's ghost had made a restless Brutus ask Cassius to start off from Sardis earlier than planned. At Philippi, it had reappeared, and Brutus had taken it as a foreboding of his death. Brutus confesses that he had not killed Caesar as willingly as he was ending his own life.
  - e. *Julius Caesar* is indeed an exploration of the tragedy Brutus faces. Though Brutus had already been suspicious of Caesar's rapid ascent to monarchic power, it was the misleading and false letters strewn by Cassius in the Brutus's orchard that had finally motivated Brutus to conspire against Caesar. While Brutus learns of Cassius's unscrupulous nature later, he is left blissfully ignorant of how he had been manipulated by Cassius. Brutus loses a friend (Caesar), his wife (Portia), and allies throughout the course of the play. He had been so consumed by his faith in honour and led by his desire to perform upstanding and honourable deeds, that Brutus had a blinkered understanding human nature and Roman politics.
3. a. Brutus had taken his own life by running into the sword held by Strato; thus, no one could claim that they had killed Brutus and be celebrated for it. In Act 5 Sc 4 Lucilius had attempted to deceive their adversary by making them believe that they had captured Marcus Brutus and that they were free to kill him. He had done so to prevent Brutus's capture and perhaps, to buy him more time on the battlefield.
- b. Lucilius had been proven right since Brutus, facing inevitable defeat on the battlefield, had run into his own sword and ended his life. Brutus had maintained his honour by not getting captured and surrendering to

Octavius-Antony. Earlier, Brutus had admitted that killing oneself is an act of weakness, at the end of the play, by all accounts, Brutus had lived and died honourably.

- c. Before he dies by suicide, Brutus, with profound conviction, asserts that even on the day of his outright loss on the battlefield, he would have more glory than Antony and Octavius. While Antony-Octavius's success on the battlefield was absolute, Brutus's honour and allegiance to his noble cause was intact. Messala joins Octavius's service, as does Strato, though rather reluctantly. One is led to believe that Lucilius had joined Octavius as well.
- d. Octavius declares that he would take Brutus's followers into his employment since they had been loyal to Brutus till the very end. This suggests that Octavius held Brutus and his followers in high regard, and would not lead them back to Rome in chains, as Julius Caesar had done with his captives to prove his might. Octavius's shrewdness is apparent throughout the play, and his decision to take on Brutus's followers is consistent with his political manoeuvres. By embracing them, he astutely neutralizes the possibility of them turning into his adversaries.
- e. After his demise, Antony, in Octavius's presence, declared that Brutus was the noblest Roman amongst all the men who had conspired against Julius Caesar. Brutus was the only one who pursued the conspiracy for the betterment of the common people of Rome. Additionally, he lauds Brutus as a noble man in whom the best qualities of humanity could be found in a balanced fashion, making him an ideal man. Octavius seconds it by underscoring Brutus's virtue and announcing that he deserved a respectful burial, and that his corpse would be kept in Octavius's tent that night. While Antony's comment appears earnest, Octavius's actions might have been to his benefit. Neither mention Cassius since he was not someone who had the general public's best interests in mind when he had conspired against Caesar.