

Hamlet Act 4 Questions for Study

Act 4

Scenes 1 & 2:

1. How does the queen protect Hamlet?
2. What does Claudius ask Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to do?
3. What does Hamlet mean when he calls Rosencrantz a "sponge"?

Scene 3:

4. Why does Claudius say he must hide the haste with which Hamlet is being sent away?
5. In lines 34-38, what does Hamlet tell Claudius he has done with Polonius?
6. What does Claudius arrange to happen to Hamlet when he arrives in England?

Scene 4:

7. Who does Hamlet meet in this scene?
8. What purpose unites Fortinbras's troops?
9. What effect does this meeting have on Hamlet?

Scenes 5 & 6:

10. What has happened to Ophelia?
11. Why does the Queen agree to go see her?
12. What are the problems Claudius lists in lines 77-94?
13. Why does Laertes break into Claudius's chamber?
14. What does Claudius tell Laertes to do?
15. What happens to Hamlet during his passage to England?

Scene 7:

16. In lines 5-9, what does Laertes ask Claudius?

17. What is the King's response?
18. What scheme is planned by Claudius and Laertes?
19. What is their back-up plan?
20. What news does the Queen bring? Recount the scene she describes.
21. Do you believe Ophelia's death was an accident or suicide? Explain.