

Test on First Three Acts of Hamlet

Answer all questions. Marks are in brackets.

1. Yet so far hath discretion fought with nature
That we with wisest sorrow think on him
Together with remembrance of ourselves

Speaker (1)
Spoken about (1)
The speaker balances opposites here. What opposites and how? (5)

2. Haste me to know't, that I, with wings as swift
As meditation or the thoughts of love,
May sweep to my revenge.

Speaker (1)
Spoken to (1)
Translate, giving special attention to the imagery. (5)

3. The serpent that did sting thy father's life
Now wears his crown.

Speaker (1)
Spoken to (1)
Connect this quote to the "poison Kingdom" theme. (5)

4. Thy commandment all alone shall live
Within the book and volume of my brain
Unmixed with baser matter.

Speaker (1)
Comment on the use of the word "commandment" (5)

5. Your bait of falsehood takes this carp of truth;
And thus do we of wisdom and of reach,
With windlasses and with assays of bias,
By indirections find directions out.

Speaker (1)
Spoken to (1)
Comment on the speaker's attitude to opposites that do not seem to belong together. (5)

6. How pregnant sometimes his replies are! a happiness that often madness hits on, which reason and sanity could not so prosperously be delivered of.

Speaker (1)
Spoken about (1)
How does this statement conflict with usual views of sanity and insanity? (5)

7. Why, then 'tis none to you, for there is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so. To me it is a prison.

Speaker (1)
Spoken to (1)
What important understanding of perceptions is stated here? (5)

8. Now see that noble and most sovereign reason,
Like sweet bells jangled, out of tune and harsh.

Speaker (1)

Translate, giving particular attention to the images and what they convey. (5)

9. ...blest are those
Whose blood and judgment are so well commingled
That they are not a pipe for Fortune's finger
To sound what stop she please....

Speaker (1)

Spoken to (1)

What wish lies behind this statement made by the speaker? (5)

10. My words fly up, my thoughts remain below;
Words without thoughts never to heaven go.

Speaker (1)

Who hears it? (1)

What odd view of words is here presented? (5)

11. Confess yourself to heaven;
Repent what's past; avoid what is to come;
And do not spread the compost on the weeds
To make them ranker.

Speaker (1)

Spoken to (1)

What two-part appeal is made here? (5)