Julius Caesar – Study Guide

Any combination of the following questions may appear on your exam covering the play:

Act I
1. Why have commoners gathered in the streets at the opening of Act I, Scene I?
2. As the play opens, Marullus and Flavius are dispersing the crowd because they _____.
3. What is the Soothsayer’s warning to Julius Caesar?
4. Describe how Cassius and Brutus differed in their opinions of Julius Caesar.
5. Caesar clearly gives his thoughts about Cassius. What does he say?
6. Summarize Casca’s explanation of why Caesar looked so sad.
7. According to Cassius, what happened when Caesar and Cassius went swimming in the Tiber? What is the point of this story?
8. Cassius says he saved Caesar’s life by doing what?
9. According to Casca, Caesar refused a crown offered by _____.
10. At the end of Scene II in lines 312 - 326, Cassius makes plans. What plans does he make?
11. Casca says, "For I believe they are portentous things/Unto the climate that they point on." What does he mean?
12. Cassius describes Caesar as a wolf and a lion, and the Romans as sheep. What literary term is illustrated here? What is its significance?
13. Why does Cassius want Brutus to join the conspiracy?
14. How does Cassius get Brutus’ support in the conspiracy?

Act II
15. To what decision does Brutus come in his orchard?
16. Why does Brutus believe that Caesar must be stopped from becoming king?
17. What are the “exhalations” by which Brutus reads the letter Lucius delivers?
18. What strategical error do Brutus and Cassius make when they are discussing Caesar’s death? Why do they commit such a blunder?
19. Why doesn’t Brutus want to swear an oath with the conspirators?
20. For what reason does Metellus Cimber want Cicero to join the conspiracy?
21. Brutus is against including Cicero and against killing Mark Antony. Why?
22. Why did Brutus say, "Render me worthy of this noble wife!"?
23. What is the significance of Calpurnia’s dream as recounted by Caesar?
24. Which character dreams about a bleeding statue of Caesar before Caesar is killed?
25. Of what does Calpurnia try to convince Caesar?
26. Caesar yields to Calpurnia’s wishes at first. Why does he change his mind and decide to go to the Senate meeting?
27. How does Decius persuade Caesar to go to the Senate?
28. What does the note Artemidorus wants to give to Caesar say?
29. What are the strange events that Casca describes to Cicero?
30. Cassius’ main way to get Brutus to join the conspiracy is by ________.
Act III
31. Who is the first to stab Caesar?
32. What is ironic about the timing of Caesar's murder (in relation to the preceding events)?
33. What do the conspirators proclaim to justify their deed following Caesar's death?
34. Antony's servant brings a message to Brutus. What does he say?
35. Antony wants to speak at Caesar's funeral. What reaction does Brutus have? Cassius?
36. Why was it a mistake to let Antony speak at Caesar’s funeral?
37. Under what conditions will Antony speak at the funeral?
38. What did Brutus say to the people at the funeral?
39. What did Antony say in his now famous "Friends, Romans, countrymen…” speech?
40. At the end of his speech, Antony claims to lack what talent?
41. How did the citizens’ react to Antony’s speech?
42. Why did Brutus and Cassius flee Rome?
43. Compare Antony’s speech with Brutus’. Why is Antony’s more successful?
44. After the conspirators stab Caesar, they do what?
45. When Brutus speaks to the public, he claims that he killed Caesar because _______.
46. In his funeral speech over Caesar’s body, Brutus refers to the conspirators as_____
47. What does Caesar leave the citizens of Rome in his will?
48. As proof of her loyalty, Portia does what?
49. When Brutus stabs Caesar, Caesar says, in essence,_______.
50. Why do the citizens kill Cinna the poet?
51. What is the significance of Act III Scene III in which the citizens kill Cinna the poet?

Act IV
52. What did Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus gather to discuss?
53. When reviewing the list of names, Lepidus agrees that his brother must die if _________.
54. To what does Antony compare Lepidus?
55. Why do Cassius and Brutus argue when Cassius arrives with his army at the camp?
56. What problem has developed between Cassius and Brutus? How is it resolved?
57. What news did Messala bring Brutus?
58. For what reasons does Brutus want to lead his armies to Philippi?
59. What message did Caesar's ghost bring Brutus?
60. Which character commits suicide by swallowing fire?
61. What does Brutus wonder when the ghost of Caesar appears to him?

Act V
62. Why did Pindarus stab Cassius?
63. What causes Titinius to say, "The sun of Rome is set!“?
64. Who do the soldiers believe they have captured in Scene IV? Who is it really?
65. How does Brutus die?
66. Why did Antony say Brutus was the "noblest Roman of them all”?
67. Brutus claims that he would rather die than do what?
68. Pindarus kills Cassius because _______.
69. Cassius’ death was premature. Why?
70. After the death of Brutus, Antony claims that Brutus was “the noblest Roman of them all” because …
Quotations - Identify the speaker.

71. “Since Cassius first did whet me against Caesar I have not slept.”

72. “O, Pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth, That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!”

73. “Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world Like a Colossus; and we petty men Walk under his huge legs, and peep about To find ourselves dishonorable graves.”

74. “Let me have men about me that are fat; Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o’nights. Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look; He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.”

75. “Et tu Brute?–Then fall Caesar!”

76. “O Caesar, read mine first, for mine’s a suit That touches Caesar nearer: read it, great Caesar.”

77. “Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste of death but once.”

78. “This was the noblest Roman of them all: All the conspirators, save only he, Did what they did in envy of great Caesar;”

79. “How like a deer strucken by many princes / Dost thou here lie!”?

80. “The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves…” Act I; scene ii

81. “This day I breathed first. Time is come round, and where I did begin, there shall I end. My life is run his compass.” Act V, Scene iii

82. Caesar, thou art revenged, Even with the sword that killed thee.”