SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS – *Hamlet-*Ms. Myers English 10

*Directions: You are expected to complete these at the end of each Act. They should be done on a separate sheet of paper in complete sentences/restating the question.*

Act One

1. Identify Bernardo, Francisco, Marcellus, Horatio, and King Hamlet.

2. What had Bernardo seen at a prior watch?

3. Why does Marcellus think Horatio should speak to the ghost?

4. What does young Fortinbras want to do?

5. Who do the soldiers/guards want to tell about the ghost?

6. Identify King Claudius, Queen Gertrude, Laertes, and Polonius.

7. Where does Claudius send Cornelius and Voltimand?

8. What does the King tell Hamlet?

9. Hamlet is upset for two reasons. What are they?

10. What news does Horatio bring Hamlet?

11. What does Hamlet decide to do after he hears Horatio's news?

12. What is Laertes' advice to Ophelia?

13. What is Polonius' advice to Laertes?

14. At the end of Scene III, Ophelia agrees to "obey." What will she do?

15. What did the ghost tell Hamlet?

16. Hamlet swears Horatio to two things. What are they?

Act II

1. Where does Polonius send Reynaldo? Why?
2. Do you think Polonius follows the advice he gives to Laertes “to thine own self be true,” regarding the instructions he gives to Reynaldo?
3. Why does Polonius think Hamlet is "mad"?
4. Why have Rosencrantz and Guildenstern come to the castle?
5. What is Polonius' plan for testing his theory that Hamlet is love-crazy?
6. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern finally meet with Hamlet, and Hamlet discovers they were sent for by the King. How does Hamlet describe his personal problems to them? What does he tell them?
7. What is the story of Hecuba and Priam? Explain the story’s significance. What is Hamlet’s reaction to the story? Explain.
8. What arrangement does Hamlet make with Player 1?
9. After Rosencrantz and Guildenstern leave Hamlet, what does he basically say in his soliloquy? What is his state of mind?
10. Describe Polonius. What does he seem to like to do a lot of?

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Act III

1. What message do Rosencrantz and Guildenstern carry to the King? What is the King's response?

2. Hamlet's famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy is in scene one. In a sentence or two paraphrase his main points.

3. Describe Hamlet's tone when he speaks to Ophelia.

4. What do the King and Polonius decide about Hamlet's condition after eavesdropping on

Hamlet and Ophelia?

5. Why does Hamlet give instructions to the players?

6. What was the King's reaction to the play, and what did Hamlet and Horatio decide his reaction meant?

7. What message does Rosencrantz deliver from the Queen?

8. The King has Rosencrantz and Guildenstern prepare to do what? Why?

9. Why doesn't Hamlet kill the King when the King is kneeling?

10. How does Polonius die?

11. What would Hamlet have his mother do?

Act IV

1. What does Hamlet think of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?

2. Why must the King "not put the strong arm on" Hamlet?

3. When the King asks Hamlet where Polonius is, what is Hamlet's answer?

4. What is the content of the letters the King sends with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to England with Hamlet?

5. What prompts Hamlet to say, "My thoughts be bloody or be nothing worth!"?

6. What has happened to Ophelia?

7. Why does Laertes force his way in? What does he want?

8. What is the content of Hamlet's letter to Horatio?

9. What plan do the King and Laertes discuss to kill Hamlet?

10. What news does the Queen bring Laertes?

Act V

1. Who is Yorick? How has Hamlet’s attitude toward death changed?
2. What dramatic function do the gravediggers have, and what theme do they express?
3. Laertes thinks that Ophelia should have a better funeral service. What is the priest's answer?
4. Why does Hamlet jump into Ophelia's grave?
5. What does the King say to Laertes to console him after Laertes and Hamlet are separated?
6. Explain Hamlet’s remarks to Horatio about fate.
7. What did Hamlet do to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
8. What news does Osric bring Hamlet?
9. What happens to the King, Hamlet, Laertes, and the Queen?
10. Who does Hamlet recommend to the throne?
11. Who does Hamlet appoint to tell his story to the world? Why?