

## **HAMLET** **MEMORY TEST**

*This is a build-your-score test. Every student must recite the mandatory selections and then choose from the following to build up to a possible 110 (major grade). Any errors (wrong words, missed words, mispronounced words, etc.) will result in a penalty from your grade. If your selection of lines exceeds 110 points, you will receive credit for the first ones on your memory test, not the ones that total 110, or a combination of flawed work that totals 110. Choose which you will answer carefully!*

### **Why memorize?**

- ✓ It helps you internalize and understand the play better, as well as appreciate the poetry.
- ✓ It gets you used to memorizing—like exercise. The more you work your brain, the more easily you retain other information. Neurological research shows that memorizing creates neuron bonds, causing your brain to grow new pathways previously unformed.
- ✓ Most educated people have a passing familiarity with these lines and using them in conversation can be impressive—raising their opinion of you.
- ✓ It's a rite of passage for American high schools. ☺

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### **Mandatory Lines- 5 points each**

- Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.
- There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,  
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.
- Though this be madness, yet there is a method in't.-
- The time is out of joint. O cursed spite  
That ever I was born to set it right!
- ... I'll have grounds  
More relative than this. The play's the thing  
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.

*Mandatory lines*                      **25 pts.**

*Mandatory Soliloquies*              **50 pts.**

*Optional lines*                         **25+ pts.**

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*You may earn up to 110 for the exam!*

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### **Mandatory Soliloquies- 25 points each**

Seems, madam, Nay, it is. I know not 'seems.'  
'Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother,  
Nor customary suits of solemn black,  
Nor windy suspiration of forc'd breath,  
No, nor the fruitful river in the eye,  
Nor the dejected havior of the visage,  
Together with all forms, moods, shapes of grief,  
'That can denote me truly. These indeed seem,  
For they are actions that a man might play;  
But I have that within which passeth show-  
These but the trappings and the suits of woe.

To be, or not to be- that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them. To die- to sleep-  
No more; and by a sleep to say we end  
The heartache, and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wish'd. To die- to sleep.  
To sleep- perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub!  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause.

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**Optional Lines- 5 points each**

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1. My words fly up, my thoughts remain below.  
Words without thoughts never to heaven go.
2. No, by the rood, not so!  
You are the Queen, your husband's brother's wife,  
And (would it were not so!) you are my mother.
3. Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him,  
Horatio. A fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy. He  
hath borne me on his back a thousand times.

**Optional Lines- 15 points each**

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1. O that this too too solid flesh would melt,  
Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew!  
Or that the Everlasting had not fix'd  
His canon 'gainst self-slaughter! O God! God!  
How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable  
Seem to me all the uses of this world!  
Fie on't! ah, fie! 'Tis an unweeded garden  
That grows to seed; things rank and gross in nature  
Possess it merely. ...
2. Neither a borrower nor a lender be;  
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,  
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.  
This above all- to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.
3. ...What a piece of work is a man! how noble in reason! How infinite in faculties! in form and moving how  
express and admirable! In action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the  
world, the paragon of animals! And yet to me what is this quintessence of dust? Man delights not me- ....
4. O, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown!  
The courtier's, scholar's, soldier's, eye, tongue, sword,  
Th' expectancy and rose of the fair state,  
The glass of fashion and the mould of form,  
Th' observ'd of all observers- quite, quite down!
5. Not a whit, we defy augury; there's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to  
come', if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come: the readiness is all. Since no  
man knows aught of what he leaves, what is't to leave betimes? Let be.