

Hamlet Act V

Scene i

1. What is the purpose of the exchange between the two grave diggers?
2. Summarize Hamlet's musing on death. How have his ideas changed over the course of the play?
3. Who was Yorick?
4. What is different about Ophelia's funeral? Why is it different?
5. What is ironic about Gertrude's speech ll. 237-239?
6. Do you think Hamlet or Laertes has more right to show grief over Ophelia's death?
7. Gertrude says that Hamlet is insane in the funeral scene. Is he?
8. How has Hamlet changed since returning from England?

Scene ii

1.
 - a) What will happen to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
 - b) How does Hamlet rationalize his action?
 - c) Do you think that they deserve their fate?
 - d) How does their fate benefit Hamlet?
2. How is the scene with Osric comic? Why does Shakespeare add it?
3. What are the terms of the duel? Why does Hamlet assume that he will win?
4. How does Hamlet show himself to be noble?
5. Why can't Laertes totally forgive Hamlet?
6. How does Gertrude die? Is it suicide? How does Claudius react?
7. What does Laertes reveal?
8. How is order restored to Denmark?
9. What is ironic about the news that the English ambassadors bring?