

## **Othello Revision Questions**

### **Act 1 Scene 1**

1. What is Roderigo complaining about in the opening scene?
2. Why does Iago say he hates Othello so much, and what does he mean when he says: "In following him, I follow but myself."
3. What do Iago and Roderigo hope to accomplish by shouting insulting remarks under Brabantio's window?
4. Explain the contrast in the way Iago speaks to Brabantio and the way Roderigo speaks to him.
5. How does Brabantio's attitude toward Roderigo change in the course of this scene?
6. What is Brabantio's explanation of why his daughter has run off with Othello?

### **Act 1 Scene 2**

7. What are Othello and Iago talking about at the opening of this scene?
8. When Iago warns Othello that Brabantio is "much-loved" and may try to separate him and Desdemona, what is Othello's answer and what does it suggest about what Othello values?
9. Explain what happens between Iago and Cassio in the short time Othello is off stage (lines 47 – 52)
10. List all of the negative comments or words Brabantio uses to describe Othello.
11. How does Othello react to the provocation of Brabantio's attack?
12. Find five places in I.2 where Othello exercises authority.

### **Act 1 Scene 3**

13. In response to Brabantio's accusation that Othello has bewitched his daughter, Othello explains how she originally fell in love with him. How did it happen?
14. Why is Desdemona's response to her father's question at lines 176 – 178 especially effective?
15. How does Desdemona argue that she should be allowed to accompany her husband to Cyprus?
16. What assurances does Othello offer the Council that he will take care of business, even if his wife is with him?
17. How does Iago manipulate Roderigo in the lines 329 – 370?
18. How would you characterize the difference between the way Othello and Iago talk, both in their subject matter and their style?
19. At the end of this scene, Iago gives a second reason for hating Othello; what is this reason?

**Othello Revision Questions**

**Act 2 Scene 1**

20. Describe how Cassio acts when he lands at Cyprus, especially when Desdemona comes ashore. (2.1, lines 42 -- 97)
21. Why does Iago verbally attack his wife at 2.1, lines 99 -- 110?
22. According to Iago what is all the most accomplished woman in the world is good for? (2.1, lines 146 -- 158)
23. In lines 167-178 of this scene, what does Iago notice and what does he plan to do as a result?
24. How does Iago convince Roderigo that Cassio is in love with Desdemona? (II, 1, lines 215 -- 245)
25. What does Iago's last speech in the scene reveal about his attitude toward Othello?

**Act 2 Scene 3**

26. What is unattractive about Cassio's behavior as a drunk?
27. How does Iago manipulate the gentlemen of Cyprus to object to Cassio's behavior?
28. What new aspect of Othello's personality do we see in 2.2, lines 201 -- 215?
29. Describe how Iago, while apparently defending his friend Cassio, actually encourages Othello to take action against him? (2.2, lines 218 -- 244)
30. Explain why Cassio reacts as he does at 2.2, lines 260 -- 263?
31. Explain why Iago's advice at 2.2, 264 -- 325 is a perfectly natural response?

**Othello Revision Question**

**Act 3 Scene 3**

32. As Cassio pleads his case to Desdemona, why does Iago comment: "Ha, I like not that"?
33. What is the principal strategy that Iago uses (over and over in this scene) to convince Othello that his wife has betrayed him with Cassio?
34. As suggested in lines 267-270, why was Othello so suspicious of himself and therefore so trusting of Iago?
35. By line 344, what is Othello's state of mind?
36. What is the primary thing Othello has lost through Desdemona's betrayal?
37. What kind of proof does Othello ask for in line 370?
38. According to the editor's stage directions, what do Othello and Iago both do at the end of this scene and how might this be significant?

**Act 3 Scene 4**

39. Why is the handkerchief that Desdemona has lost so important to Othello?
40. What does Cassio do with the handkerchief he found?
41. How does Emilia explain Othello's anger over the missing handkerchief? How effective a liar is Desdemona?
42. How does Iago control the communications between Othello and all the other characters? Why does Desdemona excuse her husband's anger?