

HAMLET
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 3
YEAR 5 AND 6

QUESTIONS

1. At the start of Act 3 what are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern doing?

Tick one box

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eating and drinking | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reporting back to Claudius | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Going to watch a play | <input type="checkbox"/> | Making bread | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. What is going to happen later that evening?

Tick one box

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| A play will be performed | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rosencrantz and Guildenstern will go home | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hamlet will perform in a play | <input type="checkbox"/> | Claudius will perform in a play | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. What does Polonius think has made Hamlet mad?

4. Who does Polonius use to try and prove what he thinks?

5. Where do Polonius and Claudius hide to spy on Hamlet?

6. Why doesn't Hamlet see Ophelia at first? Write down a direct quote from the text

7. What does Ophelia want to give back to Hamlet?

8. Why does Hamlet “spring into mad acting again”?

9. Do you think Ophelia should be upset? Justify your answer with reference to the text

YES

NO

10.A. Who is the man who is ‘never wrong’?

B. After the plan to get Ophelia to get the truth out of Hamlet fails, who does Polonius then want to try and get the truth?

11.A. What does Hamlet ask Horatio to do during the play?

B. What does Hamlet tell Horatio he is calling the play?

12. ‘A cry rings out from the audience!!!’

A. Who cries out?

B. What does Claudius do?

C. What phrase suggests Claudius is very scared?

13. Why did Claudius go to the Castle Chapel?

14. Why doesn't Hamlet kill Claudius when he sees him in the Castle Chapel?

**15. Gertrude says to Hamlet,
"Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended"**

Why does that make Hamlet so cross?

16. A. Who does Hamlet think is hiding behind the curtain?

B. Who is behind the curtain?

17. At the end of Act 3 who do you feel most sorry for and why?

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ANSWERS

1. **At the start of Act 3 what are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern doing?**
Tick one box
Reporting back to Claudius
 2. **What is going to happen later that evening?**
Tick one box
A play will be performed
 3. **What does Polonius think has made Hamlet mad?**
Being in love with Ophelia
 4. **Who does Polonius use to try and prove what he thinks?**
Ophelia
 5. **Where do Polonius and Claudius hide to spy on Hamlet?**
Behind a curtain
 6. **Why doesn't Hamlet see Ophelia at first? Write down a direct quote from the text**
"he's lost in his dark thoughts of death and dying"
 7. **What does Ophelia want to give back to Hamlet?**
A book of poems that he gave her
 8. **Why does Hamlet "spring into mad acting again"?**
He sees Polonius hiding behind the curtain/sees Polonius' feet
 9. **Do you think Ophelia should be upset? Justify your answer with reference to the text**
YES

Hamlet is lying to her.
 10. **A. Who is the man who is 'never wrong'?**
Polonius

B. After the plan to get Ophelia to get the truth out of Hamlet fails, who does Polonius then want to try and get the truth?
Gertrude
 11. **A. What does Hamlet ask Horatio to do during the play?**
Watch his uncle/watch Claudius
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B. What does Hamlet tell Horatio he is calling the play?

The Mousetrap

12. ‘A cry rings out from the audience!!!’

A. Who cries out?

Claudius

B. What does Claudius do?

Runs out/runs away

C. What phrase suggests Claudius is very scared?

“turned as white as a sheet”

13. Why did Claudius go to the Castle Chapel?

To confess that he had killed his brother.

14. Why doesn’t Hamlet kill Claudius when he sees him in the Castle Chapel?

Because he thinks Claudius is praying and if Claudius was asking for forgiveness and Hamlet killed him he would go to heaven which Hamlet doesn’t want to happen

15. Gertrude says to Hamlet,

“Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended”

Why does that make Hamlet so cross?

Because Claudius is not his father!

16. A. Who does Hamlet think is hiding behind the curtain?

Claudius

B. Who is behind the curtain?

Polonius

17. At the end of Act 3 who do you feel most sorry for and why?

Answers can vary but as long as it can be justified.