

**Ministry of Higher education**  
**University of Tikrit**  
**College of Basic Education / Al-**  
**Shirqat**



*An Introduction to Drama, One Act Play  
and Hamlet*

*English Department*

*Third Stage*

*First Semester*

*Instructor*  
*Shakir Hussein*

## **HAMLET SHORT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

1. **Where does the play take place?** Denmark
2. **What is the name of the castle?** Elsinore
3. **What are the first words spoken in the play?** "Who's there?"
4. **How has Ophelia died?**  
She has supposedly drowned (ambiguity surrounds her death).
5. **Where did Shakespeare live?** Stratford-upon-Avon, England.
6. **When was Hamlet written?** 1600-1 -1601.
7. **What does Bernardo mean by calling Horatio and Marcellus "the rivals of my watch"?**

He means partners.

8. **What do Claudius and Gertrude want Hamlet to do?**  
They want him to stop mourning about his father's death.
9. **According to Marcellus and Bernardo, who does the ghost resemble?**

They think the ghost resembles the late King Hamlet in his battle armor.

10. **What happened between the late king of Norway and the late king of Denmark?**

Many years ago, King Fortinbras of Norway challenged King Hamlet of Denmark to a one-on-one duel for some land. King Hamlet killed King Fortinbras during the duel and won the land.

11. **Who is young Fortinbras and what is he doing?**

Young Fortinbras is the son of the late King Fortinbras of Norway. Unbeknownst to his uncle (the current King of Norway), young Fortinbras is assembling men to attack Denmark and reclaim the land that his father lost in a duel.

12. **How do Claudius and Gertrude treat Hamlet's grief?**

They think he needs to just get over it.

**13. What does Hamlet contemplate doing when he is so upset?**

He wants to commit suicide.

**14. How does Hamlet decide to test the ghost's story?**

By having the actors perform a play called the mousetrap.

**15. Who says the following: "A little more than kin and less than kind"?** Hamlet

**16. Who is Horatio?** Horatio is Hamlet's friend from school.

**17. Who is Claudius?**

Claudius is the current king of Denmark and the brother of the late King Hamlet. He is now married to his brother's wife, Queen Gertrude.

**18. Who is Gertrude?**

Gertrude is Prince Hamlet's mother and the wife of the late King Hamlet. Soon after King Hamlet's death, she married his brother, Claudius.

**19. Who is Prince Hamlet?**

Prince Hamlet is the son of Queen Gertrude and the late King Hamlet. He is grief stricken by his father's recent death and upset over his mother's hasty remarriage to his undies.

**20. Who are Polonius and Laertes?**

Polonius is one of the king's favorite courtiers and the father of Laertes and Ophelia. Laertes is a young nobleman who wishes to return to France.

**21. Who is Ophelia?**

The daughter of Polonius and the sister of Laertes, Ophelia is a beautiful young noblewoman. Prince Hamlet has been romantically pursuing her, but Laertes and Polonius urge her to break off the relationship and remain chaste.

**22. According to the ghost, how did Hamlet's father die?**

The ghost reveals that Claudius poured poison into King Hamlet's ear while he slept. Therefore, King Hamlet's death was a murder and not an accident.

**23. What does Hamlet think of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?**

He does not trust them. He thinks they are too weak to see that the king is using them to spy on him.

**24. When the king asks where Polonius is, what is Hamlet's answer?**

He says Polonius is "not where he eats but where he is eaten." He tells the King to look for him in Heaven and if he cannot find him he should go to "the other place" (Hell).

**25. What is the content of the letter that the King sends with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to England with Hamlet?**

The king wants Hamlet to be killed as soon as he reaches England.

**26. Why does Hamlet agree to stay in Elsinore and not return to Wittenberg?**

His mother wants him to stay because he is still mourning and is depressed. It will make his mother happy.

**27. What, according to Hamlet, keeps a person from escaping the troubles of this life?**

There is a fear of something dreadful happening after death.

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

He learns that Fortinbras is fighting full force over a little plot of land that means nothing and he has not done anything about his father's death.

**29. Why does Claudius decide to send Hamlet to England ?**

He believes that Hamlet is dangerous.

**30. What, according to Hamlet, is "the purpose of playing." or acting?**

To represent reality.

**31. What does Claudius conclude about Hamlet after overhearing the conversation with Ophelia?**

He concludes that Hamlet is not crazy, his sadness, not love, is making something else.

**32. Why can't Claudius simply punish or banish Hamlet openly?**

Hamlet is very popular with the people of Denmark, which makes it deficit for Claudius to openly act against him.

**33. How has Polonius' death affected Ophelia?**

Ophelia has gone mad in the wake of Polonius death.

**34. How did Hamlet escape the ship bound for England?**

Hamlet's ship was attacked by pirates, and Hamlet boarded the pirate ship and returned to Denmark.

**35. What has happened to Ophelia?**

She has gone nuts. She is drowned. Many think its suicide.

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

It explains he escaped Rosencrantz and Guildenstern onto a Pirate ship. They are treating him well because pirates want favors from him. He wants Horatio to give letters to King and Queen and come to see him.

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

Put poison in a cup and offer Hamlet a drink.

**38. Laertes thinks that Ophelia should have a better funeral service. What is the priest's answer?**

Ophelia is lucky to be getting a nice a funeral considering the "nature of her death (means she Killed herself which is a sin).

**39. Why does Hamlet jump into Ophelia's grave?**

Because he wants to show that, his sorrow is as great as Laertes' sorrow.

**40. What does the King say to Laertes to console him after Laertes and Hamlet are separated?**

He tells him not to worry; he will soon have the appropriate time to kill Hamlet. One way or another, Hamlet will die.

**41. What news does Osric bring Hamlet?**

Osric is the courtier sent by Claudius to invite Hamlet to participate in the duel with Laertes. He tells the wager (a bet) the king made on his behalf in a contest between Hamlet and Laertes.

**42. What happens to the King, Hamlet, Laertes, and the Queen?**

**1.** The King was killed by Hamlet. **2.** Hamlet was killed by Laertes sword. **3.** the fight a The when Hamlet picked the wrong sword in the fight. **4.** The Queen drinks out of the cup meant for Hamlet and she died.

**43. Who does Hamlet recommend to the throne?** Fortinbras

**44. Who are the members of the King's guard?**

Bernardo, Francisco and Marcellus

**45. Who is King Hamlet?**

He is Hamlet's father and the King of Denmark until he dies. He appears as a ghost at night.

**46. What had Bernardo seen at a prior watch?**

Bernardo had seen the ghost of King Hamlet.

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

Marcellus thinks Horatio should speak to the ghost because he will know what to say to him. He is a "scholar" and is educated. He's also Hamlet's close friend.

**48. What does young Fortinbras want to do?**

His father was killed by King Hamlet. He wants to reclaim the land that his father lost to King Hamlet. He wants to fight the King of Denmark and go to war to get the land back. He has gathered men from deterrent areas or Norway to help him.

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

They want to tell young Hamlet that they have seen the ghost of his father. They think the ghost will speak to his son.

**50. Where does Claudius send Cornelius and Voltimand?**

He has written a letter to the King of Norway, which he wants Cornelius and Voltimand to deliver. The King of Norway is Fortinbras uncle, he is an old man who does not know what Fortinbras is planning. The King of Norway has the power to stop Fortinbras from going to war.

**51. What information does Voltimand reveal?**

Fortinbras will not wage war on Denmark, but pass through to battle the Poles.

**52. What information does Polonius tell Claudius and Gertrude?**

The reason for Hamlet's madness is that he is in love with Ophelia.

**53. What does the King tell Hamlet before he meets the ghost?**

The King tells Hamlet that he should not be so sad that his father died. Life must continue to go on. He also tells him that he does not want him to return to Wittenberg University to study. He wants him to stay in Denmark and to think of him as Hamlet's father.

**54. At the beginning of the play, Hamlet is upset for two reasons. What are they?**

**1.** Hamlet is upset because his father died. **2.** Hamlet is also upset because his mother married his Uncle very quickly after his father's death.

**55. What news does Horatio bring Hamlet in Act one?**

Horatio tells Hamlet that he saw the ghost of his father. He was dressed for battle and looked very sad.

**56. What is Laertes' advice to Ophelia?**

He tells her to stay away from Hamlet. Hamlet will take advantage of her. She should not believe him when he says he loves her. Hamlet will be King of Denmark, he is royalty and she is not.

**57. What is Polonius' advice to Laertes?**

He tells Laertes not to say what he is thinking and to think before he acts. He should hold onto his friends and not be quick to make new friends. Do not pick fights, but if you are in one, fight well. Listen to many people, but talk to a few. Do not borrow or lend money. Do not have too much fun.

**58. What does the ghost tell Hamlet?**

The ghost tells Hamlet that Claudius killed him. He poured poison into his ear when he was in the garden and he died. He also stole his wife Gertrude. He asks Hamlet to seek revenge and kill Claudius, but not to hurt Gertrude. God and her guilt will punish her.

**59. Hamlet swears Horatio and the other guards to two things. What are they?**

**1.** He makes them swear not to tell anyone about what they saw (that Hamlet talked to the ghost of his father.) **2.** He tells them that he will pretend to be crazy and that they should not say it is because he saw the ghost and talked to him.

**60. What does Horatio think the ghost is a sign of?**

It is a bad sign for the country. Something bad is going to happen.

**61. What is contradictory about Claudius in Act one?**

Claudius is sad that his brother died but he is happy about marrying Queen Gertrude.

**62. "Frailty thy name is woman" What does that mean?**

Women are weak. Hamlet says that because Gertrude married Claudius within a month of his father's death.

**63. What does Hamlet mean by "With such dexterity to incestuous sheets"?**

Gertrude married into an incestuous relationship, therefore, nothing good can come out of it and Hamlet cannot say anything about it.