Act 5, Scene 1

1. Know the whole scene well. Be able to translate.
2. Did Ophelia commit suicide? According to whom? If she does not deserve a Christian burial, why does she get to be buried in a Christian grave?
3. What types of people does Hamlet imagines buried in this graveyard, and what does he say about the types of dead people he imagines in these graves? Remember I like lists for multiple choice questions.
4. What are quiddities and quillities?
5. Who is Yorrick?
6. Why does Hamlet imagine sending Yorrick to his lady’s chamber? Who is the lady? To tell her what? Why? What does Hamlet wish to remind his lady?
7. Consider and understand the references:
   * + Alexander
     + Caesar
     + dust stopping a bunghole
     + beer barrel
     + earth patching a wall to expel the winter’s flaw.
8. Who do you think loved Ophelia more, Hamlet or Laertes?
9. Who **wins this argument** of this question and by what reasoning do you choose this winner?
10. Remember I like lists. What metaphors, or measures of love are used in Hamlet’s and Laertes’ argument?

Act 5, Scene 2

1. What is to become of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
2. How do we know what is to become of R and G, and recall some go the details from the play regarding this information. What is a signet and why is it significant that Hamlet had one?
3. Why does Hamlet not feel bad for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? What language is used in the play to explain Hamlet’s attitude? What metaphor does he use?
4. Hamlet makes his second reference to being denied the throne. Find it.
5. Hamlet seems more relaxed in Act 5, more resigned to Fate. Find passages (there is more than one) that show this, note the language, and be able to explain why he is more relaxed or resigned in your words and in Shakespeare’s words.
6. What is Horatio reading when he says, “Why, what a king is this!”
7. Find the passages that explain how Hamlet feels about Laertes.
8. Osrick is a bit of a clown and Hamlet treats him so. Don’t get too lost in the language between Osrick and Hamlet. But do understand what Osrick is there to do. What is his purpose and what plan does it fit into? (This is not to say that Osrick is a conspirator.)
9. What is Horatio’s fear or concern regarding the fencing match? It is more than the worry that Hamlet may lose the contest.
10. **The Providence in the Fall of a Sparrow speech**. Know and be able to translate Hamlet’s comments beginning with line 233. This may be the shortest speech in the play, if we count it as a speech. Know it, be able to translate it.
11. Find and understand the apology Hamlet gives to Laertes, and Laertes’ response. A stronger apology comes a little bit later. Find it and note it. Understand it.
12. Is Hamlet modest in this final part of the play? What does he say about the wager the King made?
13. This is a bit of a trick question: who dies first in this final scene? Find the text. Explain any ambiguities in the possible answers. Don’t go by the movie—what does the text show or say?
14. Who dies in this final scene—again, don’t go by the movie.
15. Why is the Queen carousing? What is carousing? Should she be carousing?
16. Find the word of Laertes’ confession. What is the substance of his final words in the play?
17. What is the warlike volley Fortinbras gives? To whom? (Understand that Fortinbras has broken no treaties or agreements.)
18. What do the ambassadors from England come to say?
19. What is Fortinbras’ figurative (thematic) and dramatic (plot) role at the end of the play? What is the condition and circumstance of Denmark at the end of the play?
20. What is Horatio’s responsibility at the end of the play? What does he need to do—one or two things?
21. What does Fortinbras think of Hamlet? Is he just saying these things or does he mean them? Discuss.