1. The act opens with a group of commoners. One is a cobbler. What is a cobbler?

2. Paraphrase Flavius' speech at end of scene 1.

3. What warning does the soothsayer make to Caesar?

4. What lines indicate Brutus' concern for personal honor?

5. In his argument against Caesar, Cassius (one of the conspirators) uses two examples to demonstrate that Julius Caesar is no more than a mere man. What are they?

6. What is the overall effect of Cassius' arguments to Brutus?

7. What kind of person is Casca?

8. Casca tells Brutus and Cassius what has happened in the arena. What has taken place?

9. In his closing soliloquy of scene 2, why does Cassius say that the conspirators meet?

10. What are four unnatural events which occur the night the conspirators meet?

11. What are the senators planning to do tomorrow that upsets the conspirators?

12. What is Cassius' plan to win Brutus to the conspiracy?
1. Brutus is alone trying to decide about the conspiracy and about Caesar. Why is this an inner struggle for him? __________________________________________

2. The “messages” which Cassius planted are found. Do they have Cassius’ desired outcome? __________________________________________

3. These scenes occur very early on the morning of ______________________.


5. Cassius mentions a problem (a possible problem) in getting Caesar to the forum that day; what is the problem? __________________________________________

6. ______________________ says that he can persuade Caesar to come; he will ______________________ Julius.

7. What is it that Portia, Brutus’ wife wants? ______________________

8. Why do you think Shakespeare included the character of Caius Ligarius in this scene? ______________________

9. In scene 2 Calpurnia, Caesar’s wife, objects to his going to the forum because ______________________

10. What is the function of scene 3? ______________________

11. The act ends with a short scene (often omitted in performance) with Portia. If you were the director of the play, would you include it? ______________________

   Why? ______________________
1. Notice Shakespeare's creation of intrigue/suspense with trying to give Caesar the letter revealing the conspirators. Why doesn't Caesar take the letter and read it?

2. The conspirators begin the pre-arranged plan to get to Caesar. Using the repealing of an order to banish Publius Cimber, they move closer and closer to Caesar. Why doesn't the faithful Antony stop them?

3. After the mob is running wild with fright and confusion, a servant comes from saying he would like to come talk to Brutus, if Brutus will

4. Antony has a plan of his own—to deliver Caesar's funeral oration. Brutus gives him permission, over Cassius' objections; however, he insists that Antony abide by three conditions: 1. 2. 3.

5. After the conspirators have left, Antony reveals his real feelings in a soliloquy. What does he prophesize?

6. What does Shakespeare understand about mob psychology as seen in scene 3?
1. After reading scene 2, write a headline for an article covering the news for The Roman Chronicle:

2. Scene 3 moves into Brutus' tent. What argument are Cassius and Brutus having?

3. With whom do you agree when they comment on their friendship, Brutus or Cassius? Why?

4. Brutus has received sad news; __________________ has died by ____________________

5. Word has also come that __________________ and __________________ are moving their armies to __________________, and that the triumvirate has purged __________________ to __________________ senators.

6. As Brutus and Cassius discuss the coming battle strategy, they disagree: Cassius thinks they should ____________________

7. Why do Varro and Claudius sleep at Brutus' tent?

8. All asleep but Brutus... who appears to him as he dozes? __________________

Act IV then ends with what action? __________________
1. The generals from both sides meet in scene 1. What is revealed in the following passages?

   Lines 16-20
   Lines 45-47

2. How do Cassius' lines indicate his mood as he talks to Messala and then to Brutus. Explain how they are different in tone.

3. If the conspirators lose the battle, is Brutus willing to surrender? What lines indicate his position?

4. Scene 3 is about a misinterpretation of an event? is sent on an errand while Pindarus watches and reports what is seen to Cassius. Why does Pindarus owe anything to Cassius? What does Pindarus think he sees?

   As a result of this misinterpretation, what does Cassius do? What has really happened on the field?

5. In your own words summarize Brutus' view of the person of Cassius.

6. Scene 4 is a case of mistaken identity; pretends to be.

7. In the beginning of scene 5, what is Brutus whispering about?

8. What confession does Brutus make to Volumnius?

9. Who ultimately aids Brutus in his request?
10. In modern versions of the play, Antony's final speech usually ends the play. What effect does this have on the audience?

Since the play ends with a great tribute to Brutus, why is the play called the Tragedy of Julius Caesar?