

Types of Question

Shakespearean Single Text

Character

- ✦ Focus on groupings of characters rather than individuals
- ✦ Role
- ✦ Development
- ✦ Relationship with others
- ✦ Qualities they embody



Character Groupings

- Lear and Gloucester
- Kent, Cordelia, Edgar and the Fool
- Goneril, Regan, Edmund and Cornwall
- Also consider contrasts:
Edmund versus Edgar;
Cordelia versus Goneril and Regan



Imagery and Symbolism

- ✦ Detailed and accurate knowledge of the play is essential
- ✦ Be prepared to say how imagery and symbolism heightens awareness of themes and/or characters



Themes

- Be aware of the main themes
- Examine the way these themes are conveyed: characters, imagery, symbols etc.
- Be prepared to compare and contrast good and evil, loyalty and disloyalty etc.



Main themes

- Love
- Sight and blindness
- Justice - human and divine
- Good and evil
- Madness
- Appearance versus reality
- The role of women



Dramatic Scenes

- ✦ Know the scene or scenes in great detail
- ✦ Know the Act and Scene numbers
- ✦ Watch film versions and be prepared to refer to them



What makes a scene dramatic?

- ✦ Violence
- ✦ An emotionally charged scene
- ✦ Tension
- ✦ Dramatic irony
- ✦ Language
- ✦ Imagery/Symbolism

Open Questions

- Tend to focus on the following:
- Relevance / Appeal of play to modern audience
- Overall impact of the play

