

# The Merchant of Venice

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE Study Guide

zigzageducation.co.uk

POD 11175

Publish your own work... Write to a brief... Register at **publishmenow.co.uk** 

← Follow us on Twitter @ZigZagEng

#### Contents

Product Support from ZigZag Education	
Terms and Conditions of Use	ii
Teacher's Introduction	
Plot Summary	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Scene-by-Scene Analysis	
Act One	
Act Two	
Act Three	16
Act Four	
Act Five	23
Whole-Text Analysis	
Character Summaries	25
Major Character Analyses	28
Relationships	
Settings and Props	31
Themes	
Form	35
Ideas and Messages	
Writer's Techniques	
Context	35
Key Terms Glossary	42
Further Reading	4:
Suggested Answers	44

#### **Teacher's Introduction**

This resource is written for students studying William Shakespeare's *The Mercha* play is a set text for Pearson Edexcel iGCSE and this resource will be of use to studeritage module of Component 2 which involves *The Merchant of Venice*.

The assessment objectives for this board are as fo

A01 Demonstrate a close knowledge and demanding of texts, maintaining informed personal engages of the control of texts.

AO2 Analyse the language and structure used by a writer to create me

AO4 Show de son felationships between texts and the contexts in a

The guide is signed to help students understand the themes, characters and is aimed at helping students to understand how the writer uses language to create their own informed personal response to the text.

Each scene has a summary followed by detailed notes explaining what happens themes of the play, along with significant quotations from the text. Active learn extended essay questions are found throughout the scene analyses. These allow activities as well as encouraging students to work through the exercises independent of the play of the exercises independent of the play of t

The guide also provides a clear, concise summary of the contexts of the play to a political contexts of England and Venice's role in sixteenth century Europe, which and religious themes of the play. The different social contexts of the Jews in England contrasted, with particular focus on how this is released the play's familia and the expansion of overseas trade are also explare.

#### Key Features of the Resource

Scene summaries and sees for every scene

f language and form sections

Structure Context se

Active learning tasks, debate prompts and extended essay questions through

Key terms glossary

Further reading

Indicative answers for all activities

#### **Specification Information**

This resource supports the exam board specifications for Pearson Edexcel iGCSE *Venice* appears on the iGCSE board as a set text for Component 2: Modern Dram Section B: Literary Heritage (examined) and Component 3: Modern Drama and L (coursework).

Component 2 is worth 40% of the total qualification. In the component candidate Modern Drama text and one Literary Heritage (e) Component 3 is **available** as an alternative to Component 2 and 3 so passes 40% of the total English Literature qualification through 70 coursework assignments, internally set and assessed, and existing the second assessed.

#### Text Edition

Note: For Component 2, students must use the prescribed edition: OUP Oxford; March 2010, ISBN 780198328674.

#### Acknowledgements

ZigZag Education would like to thank Kate Mayfield for providing the original character a



#### **Plot Summary**

Antonio is a merchant from Venice. He dearly loves his friend Bassanio and would happy. Antonio has already lent him a lot of money which Bassanio has wasted Bassanio has a scheme to pay off his debts: he plans to marry the rich and beaut Although all of Antonio's money is invested in ships trading a ross the oceans, he Bassanio the 3,000 ducats he needs to finance him out of the second second.

Antonio has to borrow the mone are greatly worst enemy, Shylock the Jew. Since arranges that if Antonic and play back the 3,000 ducats on time, the forfeit will flesh, cut of which was a ser part of the body Shylock wants.

Shylock has to go to a meal with Bassanio to finalise the loan, and leaves his hou Jessica. Jessica is in love with a Christian Venetian called Lorenzo, who is friends Lorenzo steal Shylock's money and jewels and elope together while Shylock is av

Meanwhile Bassanio travels to Belmont with his friend Gratiano to seek Portia's hadied some time ago, leaving her a beautiful mansion and lots of money, but no hus own husband, and must rely on a sort of test her father left her before he died. All pick a casket (box). There is a gold one, a silver one and a lead one. If they pick the Portia, but if they pick the wrong one, they are forbidden to marry anyone.

Bassanio picks the correct casket and marries Portia, who returns his love, while Portia's maid Nerissa. The two clever women give their husbands a ring each and take them off. The happy moment is spoilt by news that Antonio's ships have not result he has no money to pay off Shylock's debt. Shylock's debt. Shylock and ship pound of danger. Bassanio and Gratiano rush back to Venille to the Portion with enough

The play concludes with an Color of Qualitroom scene. The Duke of Venice plead mercy, but the crue! The Color of Suamant that he must get his pound of flesh. Bas more than the pound of flesh of the

Antonio is saved, much to the relief of Bassanio and Gratiano. Although Shylock fulfil his bond, the Duke of Venice offers to pardon Shylock on condition that he Shylock flees the courtroom having lost all of his money and his identity as a Jew disguised as young men, play a trick on their husbands Gratiano and Bassanio.

They demand payment for their legal services, and ask to have the rings they gave The dumbfounded husbands are reluctant to give up the rings they were so receive up giving them away to the lawyers who saved Antonio's life. Everyone, including Belmont, where the ring trick is revealed. Portia and Norwall eturn the rings to





#### Summary

Antonio and Bassanio discuss financial matters. Bassanio has spent all of his mone rich heiress, Portia of Belmont. However, he needs money and his journey to h loan but all of Antonio's money is tied up in his trailing is 35. Antonio agrees to u Bassanio's journey to Belmont.

**Analysis** 

The play be th antonio talking to his two friends Salarino and Solanio. Ant sad' (1). His friends suggest that it is because his 'mind is tossi not' why he Antonio may be sad because he is anxious about his trading ships coming home 🎆 they suggest that he might be in love. 'Fie, fie' (46) replies Antonio: he denies he entirely clear to the audience why the character is so upset – however, the gene surrounding this scene might serve to foreshadow Antonio's later difficulties in t

Bassanio, Lorenzo and Gratiano then come on stage. They are fellow Venetians notices that Antonio looks a bit under the weather, and because of his big mout not well' (73). Antonio replies that every man has a part to play in life, and his is believes he is forever doomed to be unhappy. In one regard, this might present A other hand, however, it might simply be a reflection of the continual financial pressures he is placed under as a merchant.

Lorenzo and Gratiano leave the stage, and Antonio and Bassanio are left alone to discuss more important financial matters. We learn that Bassage in a couple financially, owing a number of state of Amonio and other Venetians because of hand down (129) lifestyle. From this, we lead to the san immature, irresponsible character, we see on the wisdom and guidance of Antonio to set him straight.

#### Debate Prompt

This first scene is in the play's major th friendship. It seems because Bassanio i money. Keep Anto meet the cruel and play later on. Do y friend? Discuss.

However, Bassanio has a plan which, if it works, will make him very wealthy and debts. He tells Antonio of a beautiful heiress called Portia who lives in a mansion to a very wealthy father – by marrying her, Bassanio hopes to once and for all se is that he doesn't have enough money to 'hold a rival place' (174) at Portia's cou ask for another loan. Antonio demonstrates his inherently caring nature by imm money for Bassanio, despite all his own fortunes being 'at sea' (177).



#### Active Learning Task 1: Comprehension

In pairs, try to find out the following:

- Antonio's job
- Par Solace of residence
- Bassanio's reasons for needing to burto when from Antonio

Active Learning To The play be in uncertainty. Antonio has invested all of his money in k sea. This builds a **mood** of **suspense** right at the start of th on. Shakespeare uses this **dramatic technique** throughout the p dramatic tension is developed throughout this Scene. See if you can spot the sam



#### Active Learning Task 3

Bassanio uses a **simile** to describe Portia. He says her 'sunny locks hang 🎚 fleece' (169–170). In pairs, decide what this tells us about Portia. What



#### Summary

This scene, which takes place in Portia's Belmont mansion, consists of a conversation wealthy Portia and her servant and best friend Nerissa. The discuss the test of the devised. Any man who wants to marry Portia must be a three caskets: gold wrong one, he cannot marry anyone. Nerissa an indication about Bassanio. The announcement that the Prince of Mark 1888 and a rrive to take the casket test a marriage.

Analysi

Portia, like Amonio, is 'a-weary of this great world' (1). Unlike Antonio, she clearly describes the reason for her sadness, discussing her inability to choose a husband for herself due to the promise she made to her father before he died. The statement, 'the will of a living daughter is curbed by a dead father' (24–25) exposes just how much control men had over women – particularly fathers over daughters – at the time of the play's production. Anyone who wants to marry Portia must pass a test her father has devised, demonstrating that his influence continues even after death.

Deb

This majo obey inher leaps it son Discus

Nerissa tries to console her friend. She reminds Portia that her father was 'virtue her that everything will turn out all right in the end. Nerissa and Portia then pro Nerissa asks Portia what she thinks of each suitor, and she responds with funny a sort of parrot, the English suitor has stupid clothes could be German suitor is she does not want to just marry any man who so see wealth, but to find a hu and has good manners.

At this point, Nerissa and Fortia of the young Venetian called Bassanio. Bassand a school (1900)—31, and is 'worthy of a fair lady' (113). By having Portia and this stage of the analysis of Bassanio's fundamentally good later marriage to Portia.



#### Active Learning Task 1

In pairs, answer the following:

- Who is Nerissa?
- Why doesn't Portia like the German suitor?

Why can't Porti

#### Active Learning Task 2

If this scene were performed on stage, where do you think it would be setalking loudly in Portia's room, or would they be whispering and giggling pairs, act out the scene as you would stage it. When everyone is happy with their perform their version of this scene in front of the classification of things like: lought lought and English or modern day speech, both in the classification of the cla

Active Learning in the previous scene?

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Zig Zeg Education

#### Summary

Bassanio approaches Shylock, a Jewish moneylender, for a loan of 3,000 ducats on Antonio's behalf. The agreement will be called a bond. Arionio feels confident the three months and that he'll have more than enough it is a d money to pay o decided that he must help his friend Bassanio, ev in in the loss him his life.

#### **Analysis**

Although Sh o agree to a bond of 3,000 ducats, we learn how much s Antonio and Christians in general. He refuses to eat with Bas because he believes the Christian's house is unclean, due to the Christian practice of eating pork - an act under taboo in the Jewish faith. Furthermore, Shylock bears an 'ancient grudge' (42) against Antonio because, since Antonio lends people money for free, Shylock is unable to charge a high rate of interest on his loans. This brings into question what is more important to Shylock: his money or his faith. In sixteenth and seventeenth century Britain, Jews were often stereotyped as greedy, money-obsessed individuals. Shakespeare therefor presentation of Shylock. The Jew's asides in this scene further imply his schemin

allow him to criticise Antonio and Bassanio behind their backs.

We then discover, however, that Shylock might actually be somewhat justified in Shylock, Antonio spat at him, kicked him and called him a 'dog' (105-110). Anto his behaviour, and insists that he and Shylock are still \_\_\_\_ presumably, he to his own Christianity. Antonio declares that he will be and and spurn' (126) \$ take away some of our sympathy for him to the play. It is difficult for the actor Shylock at this stage in the rial, because we have reasons for and against both should remember that with time of production British audiences would have be Antonio, di en la rejudices against Jews.

Shylock ends up agreeing to loan Antonio the money to give to Bassanio for his ques this is the perfect chance to catch his enemy 'off the hip' (41); he decides that the bo does not pay back the 3,000 ducats in the time allotted, Shylock will be allowed to come whatever part of Antonio's body he pleases. This flesh can be interpreted as a symb Jewish faith forbids its members to eat; losing a pound of flesh can therefore symbol his Christianity.

**Active Learning Task** 

In this scene Shylock uses what is called a soliloguy, which is where a ch describing what he is thinking in his head. This is the only soliloguy in this out on stage. How would you direct this soliloguy? For example, perhaps Shyloc. knife while he is talking? Where would you have him :: talking? When this for a while and have several points, share than with the rest of the class. It may many different ways there are of direction sollinguy.



Deb

Since

Chris

loan®

is im

frien

othe enen



#### Context (AO4): Act 1

In the first act of *The Merchant of Venice*, the primary issue that drives the plot requirement for money to woo Portia, which he borrows from Antonio, who in In sixteenth century England, it was illegal to charge interest on a loan, since it the economic traditions of Shakespeare's Europe, which were effectively inher becoming increasingly obsolete. Renaissance England some borrows through **financial** as opposed to miletary victories. This raises the ancient laws and how willing we are to make an our ancient traditions. This is no ourselves are faced with the resolution of the grown money, as businesses and some work money to create products which they later economic the second structure which disrupt the flow of money, people in the present day lose because of the lack of regulation of the flow of money.







#### Summary

Act Two begins in Belmont, where the Prince of Morocco declares his love for Pol

#### **Analysis**

The opening stage directions offe so so cation of the Prince of Moroccc character; the 'flourish of so so whis elegant white clothing suggest his wealth and so suggest that suggest that so suggest that so suggest that su

Portia is polite to Morocco but is obviously not too thrilled by him. Her suggethat she is 'not solely led / By nice direction of a maiden's eyes' (13-14) furth his shallowness, and indicates that she sees through him. She coldly inform of the 'lott'ry' (15) he must enter in the form of the casket test, implying the no desire to speak with him further and wants to get it over with as quickly possible.

There are three caskets, made out of gold, silver and lead. The game Portia has devised is like a personality test; a person's choices reflect their personality in life.

The gold and silver caskets appeal to parping to are self-centred and care only lead casket appeals to people the base and Antonio, who understand that free selflessness.

The correct has a picture of Portia inside, and if the suitor selects this case Portia makes it clear that she trusts her dead father's judgement and will accept provides. Portia reminds Morocco that if he chooses incorrectly, he may 'never of marriage' (40–41). Of course, we are led to suspect that he will indeed choose

Active Learning Task 1

In groups, you are going to stage this scene. Where do you think this scemansion, at the gates of the mansion, or out in the garden? What would how would she speak her lines to him: flirtatiously or warningly? Once you have you should perform it. Make a basic set that reflects your location, decide on coswould stand, etc. Act out your scene in front of the whole class.

Active Learning Task 2

The Prince of Morocco brags about the military victories and noble birth.

references to the classical and hard Hercules. What impact does this a Morocco's character? Idea and a classical parts of the scene where he uses classical





#### Summary

In this scene, we are introduced to two of the comic characters of the play: Launc blind father, Gobbo.

#### **Analysis**

Launcelot complains that Snylock doesn't treat him very well. He decomes similar 'a kind of devil' (23). He tells us that he is hungraris to find a more compassionate master, but that he feels for wanting to leave Shylock. He speaks in a comic soliloguy, which pokes fun at the more serious, sophisticated speeches in the play by characters like Shylock and Portia. While the serious characters speak in verse, Launcelot talks in prose, which defines him as a fool in the context of the play.

Launcelot's father appears on stage and at first does not recognise his son, so Launcelot decides to play a trick on him, claiming he is not Launcelot and that Launcelot has died. He gives Gobbo some nonsensical directions of how to find him, before revealing that he

is, in fact, Launcelot. This sequence presents a good example of dramatic irony fully aware of what is happening the whole time, making for an amusing and ent

Bassanio then arrives with a few of his servants. He is now a leaving party probably to thank Antonio and Shylock for organi mgminanding. Launcelot ask of Shylock. Launcelot and Old Gobbo namess of their request, saying malapropisms). Once again, this sets the mapart as fools, distinguishing their la characters. For example 4 July says 'infection' (120) when he means 'affection' minded Ba ag so hire Launcelot, and provides him with a new suit.

The loudmouth Gratiano appears on the scene and asks if he can accompany Bass Bassanio thinks that this might be unwise, as Gratiano may say something inapp thinks Gratiano is 'too liberal' (176) and 'too bold of voice' (172), he still allows h Gratiano promising to be on his best behaviour.

#### **Active Learning Task**

Launcelot speaks in malapropisms. This is when a character uses the wro comic effect. For example, he says 'infection' when he really means 'affe like the word he was meant to use, but has a very different meaning. In pairs, di heroic language used by Morocco in the previous scene?

# 

#### Debat

The dia Bassani pun is w exactly 8 things a this case is 'suit'. servant 8 request our heri we char

COPYRIGHT

**PROTECTED** 

#### Summary

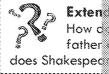
Shylock's servant, Launcelot, and his daughter, Jessica, have a conversation at Sh Launcelot that she is sad to hear that he will soon be leaving per service to go an planning to elope with the Christian, Lorenzo, who is an all of Bassanio and An letter to give to Lorenzo that confirms her dosge for such.

#### **Analysis**

Jessica conference to that life in her father's house is 'hell' (2) and that Launcelot is ry Devil' (2) who lightened the sober mood of the house. She regrets losing the servant, and rewards him with a ducat.

When Launcelot leaves, Jessica speaks in **soliloquy**, which allows her to express emotions. She complains that she feels 'ashamed to be my father's child' (17). It dilemma consists of a conflict between the apparent similarity between her and father because they are of the same blood and the same religious faith, and the difference in their 'manners' (19). What Jessica means is that her attitude towar and other people is completely different from her father's. She knows she is unliving at home with her father Shylock, and feels guilty for wanting to run away. however, determined to become a Christian and Lorenzo's 'loving wife' (20), demonstrating her independence as a character.

#### Active Learning Task



vous fath pare does Shakesp



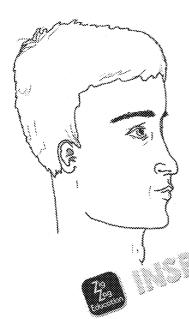
#### Summary

Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salarino and Solanio are getting ready for Bassanio's masqu and Lorenzo's plan to steal from her father and elope.

#### **Analysis**

At the party, there is muris, and drinking and everyone must wear a mask the their identities are disguised. This creates an atmosphic tension and deception, which is in contrast to the honest and stere interactions between Bassanio and Antonio. It allows people to appear differently to their true selves.

**Del** Who Solo sent



Launcelot arrives at the masque and gives Lorenze (11); this is the confirmation that Jessica wants to promises that while her father is out at Bassanio' his house and that Lorenzo should come for her to Shylock's house to give Jessica the confirmation to Shylock is out.

Lorenzo reveals that Jessica will dress as a young be recognised. He explains how she plans to steafather to furnish their elopement. Lorenzo acknowlessica plan to do some hard immoral (stealing and forbidden in the Eole has sica's conversion to Chare stealing and faithless Jew' (37) will excuse a some sun, that Lorenzo never refers to Shylock areating him almost as though he is an animal ratit seems that, by viewing Shylock in this way, he

#### **Active Learning Task**

The Venetian men in this scene are getting ready for a party. At festival wore brightly coloured clothes. Use your imagination to design an outrag louder the better. Share your designs with each other. If the class want to actually hold a Venetian fashion show.





#### Summary

Shylock and Launcelot discuss Launcelot leaving his employment. Privately, Launce elopement.

#### **Analysis**

This scene is set in Shylor' who have previously seen him. Launcelot tells Shylock that he interest leave him and work for Bassanio instead. Shylock warns him that all he does gormandize... and sleep and snore' (4–5), and that he won't be able to do this when he works for Bassanio. As it turns out, Shylock is the worse master to work for, as he is only concerned about profit and cannot empathise with others. Jessica enters and addresses her father rudely, asking merely 'what is your will?' (10). Jessica, unlike Portia, whose father is not alive, shows disrespect which suggests her independence from her father.

We are reminded of Shylock's commitment to his Jewish heritage. He swears by 'Jacob's staff' (36) – Jacob being an ancient Jewish ancestor who had an intimate relationship with the Jewish God Jehovah. He then insults Launcelot by calling him the 'fool of Hagar's offspring' (43), referring to a woman from the Old Testament who was a servant of the Jewish Abraham, and whose children were not selected by God among his chosen people. Throughout the play, Shylock's references to scripture demonstrate his hypocryphysical selection.

Jessica begins a private conversion of the cauncelot, during which he tells her that everything a pured for her elopement with Lorenzo. Shylock is so that he was begins and asks Jessica what he told her, and she lies and she lies plies that he merely said 'goodbye mistress'. Shylock leaves the house with Launcelot after claiming that his sleep has been troubled recently by ominous dreams of 'some ill abrewing' (17). His speech combines dramatic irony with foreshadowing, making Shylock appear helpless to stop the actions of his daughter and Lorenzo.

#### Deba

Shyloc Launces about both hi leave lawastef wastef well like us abou Discuss

#### Active Learning Task

This scene takes place in Shylock's house. If you were the set designer wayou design the interior of Shylock's house? Discuss this in groups and come sets. Think about Elizabethan-era sets but also remember and this could be a model.





#### Summary

Gratiano and Salarino congregate around Shylock's house, probably in masks. S last scene, so Jessica is all alone, ready to elope with Lorence Lorenzo enters, pr mask and party costume. When he knocks on the doc at any ock's house, Jessica full of her father's money. Jessica rushes out out the hand dressed as a boy, so the can escape successfully with Lorenzo and Salarino then exit, just He gives the news that there of being partying tonight: the masque has been call favourable for Bassaria a Surney to Belmont.

#### Analysis

Gratiano explains that Lorenzo has ordered him and the two Venetian merchants to stand outside Shylock's house at this hour. It is strange that Lorenzo is late, particularly when we consider Gratiano's remark that 'lovers ever run before the clock' (4). This metaphor also hints at the literal running Jessica and Lorenzo will have to do to get away from Shylock.

Jessica feels a little guilty, but justifies her conduct by claiming that since she is in love, and love is blind, she is unable to judge her own actions. She complains that love should be about 'discovery' but in reality it is a motives to others. Her speech comes across as a desperate attempt to justify ac immoral – even though she is stealing from a morally corrupt andividual, he is still committing an offence in doing so.

Similarly, Lorenzo's loving comments and all all assica seem dishonest; when he de proved herself' (55), we call that appreciate the irony of his timing. It is because she is the cannot be do

#### Aciive Learning Task

Imagine you are Jessica and think about all the thoughts and feelings the she plans to elope. Write a diary entry where she tells us how she felt a eloped. How would Jessica leave her father's house for the last time? Would she second floor? Or would she run or walk out the front door?

Deb

How & argui... then 🕼 thing descr relati Bassa



#### Summary

In this scene, we return to Belmont, where the Prince of Morocco makes his choice Portia's hand in marriage. Portia and Morocco and their seconds are in the hall Morocco begins by reading out each inscription on the second at lead cask will know he has picked the correct casket if he finds portrait in it.

#### **Analysis**

Morocco or air superficial nature when he rejects the lead casket becade gorden mind', his mind, 'stoops not to show of dross' (20). He will st even consider the lead casket as it does not reflect his estimation of himself. He then considers the silver casket, which claims that he who chooses that casket will 'get as much as he deserves' (23). He rejects this casket because he fears his own worth may be higher than Portia's, so he would technically not deserve her.

Morocco chooses the golden casket: the wrong choice. In the casket he finds, instead of Portia's portrait, a skull with a scroll inside. When he reads out the scroll it warns that 'all that glisters is not gold' (65) and that 'gilded tombs do worms infold' (69). The moral of Morocco's failure is that a beautiful exterior, such as gold, may be worthless inside. This teaches us to consider inner worth as opposed to the value of mere exteriors. Morocco has failed the test and leaves Belmont. Portia is evidently relieved that she will not have to marry him 's are get that he leaves with a 'gentle riddance' (77). Thus far, 'he', it cannot that her father's test is keeping her safe from the strong of the safe from the safe fro

Learning Task

you are the director – how do you think she should act? She could be **cool**, **calm** and **confident** that her father's test will bring her happiness, or she could be **nervous** and **ittery**. How would you direct her? Share your thoughts with the rest of the class.

Debat®

Why de behaves inherit a born fra do we is were ba

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Zig Zeg Education



#### Summary

In this scene, we get to see a conversation between Salarino and Solanio. Their confevents so far, and the effect that these events have had with characters. The next scene, by suggesting that things could be about a very wrong for Antonia

#### **Analysis**

Salarino and pic spiras a plot device to tell us what is happening off state voice we will be pically find in a novel. Salarino describes how he saw Bassanic Belmont, and anys that Shylock approached the ship while it was still docked with officers, with the aim of finding Jessica. He also explains that Jessica and Lorenzo the canals of Venice, but that Shylock was thwarted in apprehending his daughter

Salarino reports how upset Shylock is after learning of his daughter's betrayal and elopement. He thinks this is funny, and reports how a group of young boys followed Shylock in the street, mimicking his cries of 'oh my daughter', 'oh my ducats' (15). This is reflective of how all the Christian characters in the play regard Shylock: as a weak, comical figure who is there to be laughed at.

Salarino and Solanio mention that a Venetian ship has been wrecked off the coast of England, and that it might have been Antonio's. We then have a foreboding reminder of Antonio's debt to and the possibility that he might not be able to pay him book marino tells us

that Bassanio has left for Belmont with the goodbye from Antonio. When he tells how Antonio told Bassanio rosso worry about him and to concentrate of that Antonio cares about if friend and wants him to succeed. Salarino declares not the ear work, a somethat reinforces the audience's care about what might

**Active Learning Task** 

In groups of three, assign two people the roles of Salarino and Solanio director. The director needs to decide where to set this scene (e.g. in the the scene would be directed. For example, how would the characters enstand in relation to each other? Each group should then perform their version of thow differently directed scenes have dramatically different effects on the audienthe same.

Deb

Do y

Shylo

beha

Shake have reacts

centu

reluc



#### Summary

We return to Belmont, where the Prince of Arragon is the next suitor to take the

#### **Analysis**

Nerissa and a servant wait in the 'and 's anoth where the three caskets are kep which hide the three cas' and a promotions us that Arragon has taken his oath and inscriptions are cicles and one he will choose. Arragon and Portia enter the has

Like Moroccomragon is shown to be a self-centred and ignorant character. He casket, put off by the notion that he should 'hazard all he hath' (20) – Arragon be adequately attractive to justify his own sacrifice. Ironically, he seems to believe when he rejects the gold casket, suggesting that only the 'fool multitude' (25) we the glamorous 'outward wall' (28). In making such a statement, the Prince mere and his unfounded belief that he is superior to the majority of men because of h

Instead, Arragon chooses the silver casket, whose inscription reads that whoeve much as he deserves' (36). Like Morocco, Arragon thinks that he deserves Portia wealth. Arragon is similar to Shylock in that he is an isolated and self-obsessed consilver casket is the wrong casket, and Arragon receives the image of a fool instead the reflects that he will leave Belmont with two fool's heads (the other being his

After Arragon leaves, a messenger arrives to inform Porting at a young Venetian he is good-looking, an 'ambassador of love' (92). The he is seems to restore how husband, implying that Bassanio is the drawn man.

#### **Debate Prompt**

This scene is notable for after he fails the caskes speech, while the scene effects do the rhymes p



#### Context: Act 2

The sixteenth and early seventeenth century sale of the middle class, we powerful. This was opposed by the nearly collaborates of power, the aristocrats power, which consisted of or angular esections of land. The middle class becausing is some had and the social status which came from being a Du on the otion of the middle class for their social aspirations but at themselves with the middle class for their money. This vital issue is dramatised venice by the interactions of Jessica and Lorenzo, and Portia and Bassanio. Bot take pains to control who their daughters marry. Shylock is unsuccessful, and I contaminated by Lorenzo, while Portia's father puts his faith in a lottery test. how and for what reasons men and women should get married.



#### Summary

Act Three begins with another conversation between Solanio and Salarino, where misfortunes. One of Antonio's ships may have been wrecker of the coast of English pay Shylock in doubt. Shylock then enters the stanking and upset that 🎉 blood' (31), has abandoned him and has stated his racely with the Christian Lore on Antonio. Tubal, a fellow Jew, ent 300 genews that Jessica has been wasting one has been able to find have

Analys

The merchants remind us what a good reputation Antonio has. He is known in Venice as 'Antonio the Honest' (12-13), and Solanio wishes that he had as good a reputation as Antonio does. When Shylock gets upset over Jessica's behaviour, Solanio reminds him that Jessica was 'full fledged' (26), meaning that she is old enough to make her own decisions in life. Shylock responds that he does not forgive or even empathise with Jessica, insisting that they are of the same family and religion. Solanio, however, insists that Jessica and Shylock are not of

Del In p⊗ is so this 🕷 com Shyl he i

the same 'blood', suggesting that although they share the same ethnicity, their entirely different. Shylock and Jessica, according to Solanio, are as different as ' white.

Salarino asks Shylock to be merciful; if it turns out Antonio cannot pay back the and not demand his pound of flesh. Shylock insists that follows jo's pound of flesh reminds us of Antonio's harsh treatment of him the assect Shylock's usury. In the Shylock's determination to punish Antor an act of vene treated Jews at the time of writing. "Say Jow attempts to appeal to Solanio's dign eyes? Hath not a Jew hard to come and, dimensions, senses...?' (49–50) – in other w that just be he was different religion, it does not give Christians the right extracting A 's pound of flesh, he believes that he would be getting his des

Shylock is upset that Jessica has sold a ring which he bought for his wife, Leah. W monkey, it symbolises her rejection of her Jewish heritage. But Tubal has a piece Antonio's ships has been wrecked off the coast of Tripoli. This is fantastic news unlikely Antonio will be able to pay the 3,000 ducats. Shylock can demand his possible and the shadow of the shado finally get his revenge. After his earlier speech, the glee with which he looks for Antonio once again suggests his cruel nature: 'I am very glad of it. I'll plague him it' (96). While the way Shylock is treated as a Jew is pitiable, his actions and his a sympathise with him.

#### Active Learning Task

Shylock's 'prick us' speech (45-62) is one of Shakespeare's most famous speeches. Practise reading this of loud and note how the rhythm of



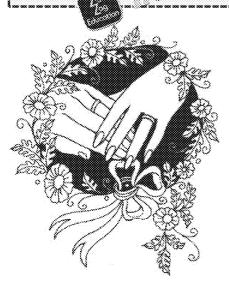
speech increases its impo

Extended Essay Q larino declares tha jer and ivory than Sh

Jessica and Shylock they are in fact utterly different how our personalities are form behave?

#### Summary

In this scene, we return to Belmont, where Portia begins with a speech to Bassania she could teach Bassania the correct answer to the country as but knows that she father. Bassania chooses the correct casket. Goat include Nerissa reveal their low Salarino, Jessica and Lorenzo then country as, naving just arrived from Venic Antonio's ships have been wroke a country will be unable to pay off the bond, a pound of flesh. Portia in the property of the salar was sania, Gratiano and Salarino return to Venic money to the salar was salar in the salar was salar was salar in the salar was salar in the salar was salar was salar in the salar was salar wa



#### **Analysis**

Compared to the entrances of Morocco and relatively simple: 'Enter BASSANIO, PORTIA their trains.' This immediately implies his had the other suitors. Portia is normally cool are speech she seems confused and conflicted, something tells me — but it is not love — / I confusion indicates that, although she clear have complete faith in her father's casket the

Bassanio begins his deliberations over which choose. He begins by describing examples beautiful, fair and noble appearances actual things. He gives as the example of people whether or any ermen with beards like He

white as milk' (86). Bassanio under the state rule love can penetrate deeper the rejects gold. He rejects silve the samon drudge between man and man' (102) as money as a last the sejection. Instead Bassanio chooses lead, the correspondences in the samoney are more than eloquence' (106). His correct choice demonstrate appearances and his implied honesty makes him the best possible match for Po

However, the optimistic tone of Bassanio's success is soon contrasted by the news of Antonio's financial failures. The structuring of the scene from this point onwards adds to the effect of the bad news. Shakespeare builds tension by allowing Bassanio a moment to read the letter that brings the news, leaving the audience to guess what it says. The message contained within the letter is hinted at by the change in Bassanio's face, as Portia observes: 'There are some shrewd contents in yon same paper / That steals the colour from Bassanio's cheek' (242–243). It is not until the very end of the scene that he actually reads the letter aloud, but by this point we have already acknowledged to situation.

#### Debate

The main deceptive reveals his and choos always de to be vair against the experience

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Zig Zeg Education

Active Learning

Nh' 3a. arring his choice, music plays in the background. Whe arrive what is the overall dramatic effect for the scene? Discuss you deas wall' of thoughts.

#### Summary

Back in Venice, Antonio has run out of time to pay his debt and Shylock is demand is under arrest and is accompanied by Salarino and a jaile. Antonio decides to which he describes as 'bootless prayers' (20). He required with the has often thwart and all the names he has called him. Antonio class for passes his wish to see Bassa

#### **Analysis**

Shylock remission of all the times he has called him a dog, warning him to 'beware's' (7), and thus implying that he has justification for his revenge. By song his own insult against him, Shylock reinforces just how much he hates Antonio and desires revenge against him.

Shylock exits, and Salarino reassures Antonio that the Duke of Venice will not allow him to take his pound of flesh. Antonio disagrees with Salarino, and claims that denying Shylock his forfeit would undermine the justice of the state of Venice, since the economic stability of Venice relies upon upholding business contracts. If the Duke does not give fair justice then people will be reluctant to trade with Venice, and this is why the Duke will not protect Antonio from Shylock's revenge; he will not 'deny the course of law' (26). Once suggests Antonio's virtuous nature and increases the audience's pity for him.

#### Active Learning Task

In this scene, Antonio is under arrest. If you wire the cirector, would you Would you leave his hands free to that whylock? Think of the dram choices. In groups, once you have the scene, act it out in free



#### **Extended Essay Question**

Why do you think the Duke will not save
Antonio? What would be the consequences?
What does this tell you about how justice is

presented in the play?

#### Debate Prom

The Duke cannot would 'impeach to always morally raindividual? Can this would not be





#### Summary

Portia, Nerissa, Jessica, Lorenzo and Balthazar (Portia's servant) discuss recent exthat she and Nerissa will go to a monastery while their husbands are away at Ve Launcelot are to be left in Belmont to look after the how while everyone is awa Padua to get legal advice from her relative inochristianio. She then reveals to new husbands.

Analysis

Lorenzo existing ow close Bassanio and Antonio are, and how Antonio's generosity has given Bassanio the opportunity to come to Belmont. Lorenzo describes Antonio as a 'true gentleman' (6) and a 'dear lover' (17) of Bassanio. Portia reasons that since Bassanio and Antonio are friends, and Portia loves Bassanio, then Antonio must be a similar person to Bassanio. As the audience, we know that they are two very different people, but we may still admire Portia's support of Antonio.

Portia asks the messenger to request some lawyer's robes. She sets out a plan for her and Nerissa to impersonate young lawyers and travel to Venice 'accoutre like young men' (63) and help Antonio in his persecution by Shylock. Her speech highlights the unequal responsibility of men and women in sixteenth and seventeenth century society, suggesting that they must turn the 'mincing steps' stride' (68) of a male in order for their word to be taken seriously. Law, during the occupied solely by men — disguising Portia and Neriss — wers, therefore, allow this gender imbalance.

Active Learnin Learning Lea



#### **Extended Essay Question**

The previous scenes in Act Three praised honesty and criticised false a plan to do good by deliberate deception. Does this undermine the ma





#### Summary

This scene is set at Belmont in Portia's garden, with Launcelot and Jessica discussion Launcelot playfully teases Jessica over her conversion to Chillianity. He claims the mean, she will still inherit his characteristics and the game his actions even thoug Christianity. Lorenzo enters and joins in the factorized his wife by accusing to woman pregnant. He also warns that it is in the should not be getting his wife Jess implication that he might be t if it is souce her.

Analysi

Launcelot's chicisms in this scene appear to be little more than a game; he jokes that since Jessica has been converted to Christianity, the price of pork will increase. Nevertheless, Jessica may actually feel guilty because she has broken two of the Ten Commandments: respect your parents and do not steal. Launcelot offers Jessica the consolation that 'your father got you not' (9-10), i.e. that she may be a bastard and is therefore not Shylock's daughter. The fact that being a bastard – something which would have made people an outcast in the seventeenth century – is seen as being preferable to Jessica's present situation, indicates how wrong she has been in stealing from her father.

Debate II

The serious the rejection between a made fun 🕷 Launcelot this have a

Lorenzo reflects upon the fool's ability to 'play upon a word' (30), by which he means Launcelot's ability to pun. Lorenz Jessica what she thinks of Portia, and she realist has sanio must live an 'upright life' (68) - in other South, that he should behave morally and not be portia. The scene ends with Jessica promisian the will set forth' (84) Lorenzo, an example of a double fractor's set forth' means to tell someone off, but we a man an erection. This unwitting pun, then, it also mean might imply that Jessica is just as much of a fool as Launcelot.

#### Active Learning Task

Imagine you are the director of this scene. How would you direct Launce When he speaks to Jessica, perhaps he could speak pompously and wea your ideas and then compare them with the rest of the class.

#### Context: Act 3

Act Three contains Shylock's 'prick us' speech (III.i), one be most famous sp plays, but in literature in general. The reason Sharo and speech is compelling is sympathise with someone whose mor some we find repellent. Christopher Shakespeare, wrote a play called it is good Malta in 1590 whose main charact Barabas who wreaks with a largeance on his enemies, only to be killed by on the play. Peakes this tradition of using a Jew as a stock nasty protag 📉 ne legal courts for revenge. Shakespeare is innovative in that 🐘 converts to christianity in Act Four as opposed to dying at the end. Shakespear shows us how literary traditions evolve, while his plays themselves can be rein literature can provide new meanings for each historical epoch.

#### Summary

This scene is set in the Duke's Palace in Venice. The Duke and his assistants preside over a courtroom, with Antonio as the plaintiff and victing while Bassanio, Gratiano, and Salarino observe their friend. She has sworn a religious oath to get the pound of the highest Antonio, so no amount of persuasion will stop him. He decline a sign not need a reason to hate Antonio so much. Nerissa puts him the decline a dation. Shylock is made aware of the full consequences of himself. The Duke decides to show mercy to Shylock and pardons him of the sign of signer. Antonio likewise shows mercy, and proposes in the signer of the signer

#### Analysis

Antonio tells us that he is prepared to suffer whatever happens with a 'quietness of spirit' (12), while the Duke reminds us that Shylock has refused to offer Antonio mercy and will insist on his bond. Shylock is presented as a 'stony adversary' and an 'inhuman wretch' (4), while Antonio is made to appear honourable as he approache death. Since Bassanio has just returned from Belmont he now has plenty of money off Antonio's debt. He offers Shylock 6,000 ducats instead of his pound of flesh, but Shylock mercilessly stands by his commitment to obtaining a pound of flesh.

The Duke tells us he has requested legal opinion from Dr Bellario, and Nerissa enters disguised as a young male lawyer's assistant and gives the Duke a letter. Gratiano law out at Shylock, and calls him a dog and a wolf, continuing the law in-Semitic prejudice throughout the play. The Duke reads the letter along a the lourt; it states that sinc cannot appear in person, he has sent his arginal and glawyer from Padua. In an example of dramatic irony, the aurilla state of the letter along a state of the

Portia begin would be suitable as far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would be suitable as far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would be suitable as far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would be suitable as far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would be suitable as far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would say a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would in a far as justice is concerned for Shylock's bond wouldn't fit would woul

Shylock praises Portia as a 'second Daniel' (219) at this point, by which he means a wis scripture to make his point. Portia gives permission for Shylock to cut the pound of fle Antonio to 'prepare his bosom' (241). Portia makes it very clear that Shylock has refus be as cruel as he can be, but nevertheless allows him to proceed.

Just as it seems that Antonio is about to die, Portia reminds Shylock of the full extension was not previously aware of. It turns out that Shylock must cut exactly one pound of allowed to take any of Antonio's blood when cutting single is in a specified in the state will confiscate all of Shylock's money and confirm arthermore, since Antonion is not, Shylock is in breach of a law which ready Jews from threatening the life of death, and for half of Shylock's and state and half to go to the victim. While Gratiano and Bass and the perjoyed at the result.

Bassanio the rti and Nerissa, who are still disguised as young men, for saving give them are they desire. The girls decide to play a little joke on their husbane.

them before they left Belmont. Bassanio and Gratiano are at first reluctant to give the rings they swore not to give away. Portia and Nerissa leave, but Bassanio sends Gratiano after them with the rings to give to them. Antonio and Bassanio are left alone on the stage, and decide to go to Belmont.

Active Learning
At the end of the
has lost his reven
convert to Christianity. But
walk, or maybe crawl out
you would direct Shylock's



#### Summary

Portia and Nerissa are still disguised as two young lawyers, walking down a streen Nerissa to send the deed to Shylock which specifies his convenion to Christianity, to Antonio and the state of Venice. She also explains to a how they will lead before their husbands get there, so that their loss are won't know they ever left

#### **Analysis**

Gratiano entition of sill thinks are two young lawyers, to dinner at Basanio's house that night. They both refuse, as Portia and Nerissa must get back to Belmont before their husbands, so they will not be suspected of leaving. Portia asks Gratiano to show Nerissa the way to Shylock's house. Nerissa, in an aside, tells Portia that she plans to get Gratiano's ring, which he 'swore to make him keep forever' (13–14), from him while they walk to Shylock's house. Both women, then, toy with their men in order to show how easily Bassanio and Gratiano give in to male authority, despite their promises.

#### Debate |

Rings are sticking to her promis abandons Gratiano e to be comis their marrs



#### Active Learning Task

Portia and Nerissa cross-dress in Act Four. How would you dress them? V serious nature of the courtroom scene? Or would be more colourful? any colours, pictures, or textures that you and void be appropriate.

## Conte

For Hollyw directors, courtroom scenes are popular. They are a fantast combine dramatic tension and catharsis with social commentary. A courtroom opportunity to see if a society will discriminate against a particular gender or et when discrimination occurs. Consider Gratiano's vicious attitude towards Shylo judgement in what is effectively a kangaroo court. The courtroom scene also ill powerful positions in Venice. You should consider whether it is merely amusing men in this scene, or whether Shakespeare is making a serious point that wom of being lawyers. Keep in mind that on the one hand most women had very litt but on the other hand Queen Elizabeth I was a very powerful and competent re

# 



#### Summary

This is the final scene of the play, and it is set at night, in the entrance to Belmont mythical lovers. A messenger arrives and informs Lorenzo \* Portia will soon be Nerissa return home dressed as themselves. They take in the his bands about the

#### **Analysis**

The scene h Will C ം and Jessica discussing famous lovers, such as Troilus and Cressida, and stories of m Medea and Jason. The myths they are comparing their own story to are ancient Greek tragedies. Given that The Merchant of Venice is a comedy – and thus ends with a resolution – these comparisons reinforce the light, optimistic tone of the scene.

The conversation soon moves onto the theme of music. Lorenzo makes an analogy between harmonious music and harmony between people. Different notes combine to make beautiful sound, so different people can work in harmony. Lorenzo describes how music can calm 'unhandled colts' (72), and how Greek myths claim that the musician Orpheus could move 'trees, stones and floods' (79-81). He decides that if a man is not moved by music he is dangerous and anti-social, which reminds the audience of Shylock's dislike of musical At Two, Scene Five.

Portia and Nerissa are pleased to second finally of their home, and Portia compa background to 'a good deer" ( symbolic contrast to compare the pession positive tone of the same of solution. Lorenzo hears Portia's voice and the friend Lorenzo th. Lorenzo the Lorenzo the series have been at the monastery, and continues the dra essica and the servants not to tell Bassanio otherwise. A trum Antonio, Gratiano and their servants arrive. Bassanio introduces Antonio to Por kindness allowed him to fund his journey to Belmont.

Nerissa asks to see the ring she gave Gratiano before he left, and he exclaims that clerk. Nerissa pretends not to believe Gratiano, and claims that he has been disl embarrassment, Portia then asks for the ring she gave to him before he left for V too gave it away to Antonio's lawyer. The girls have a bit of fun with their husball with them. They tease the men by suggesting that they won't sleep with them u claims she will instead sleep with the lawyer, a highly amusing comment given the Once again, we see how Shakespeare allows women power over men within the

Portia reveals her trick by showing Bassanio the lette: Bellario, revealing two young lawyers who helped Antonio in Value Parada also shows Antonio a l his ships have come home safely and the timances are secure. The play ends pledging their loyalty to each the form on the other hand, is a quiet and lo the beginning of the little of the play – which suggests that Anton continued ssimight undermine the otherwise joyful ending of the play.

#### **Active Learning Task**

The comic element of this scene is the argument between the Belmont girl would you direct Nerissa and Gratiano in this scene? They are both shar Would Nerissa be huffy and pouty? Would Gratiano be angry or would he be 🏽 decide how to direct the scene and then act it out.

#### Debate P

In this scene that beauty What this m beautiful wh things. This 🕷 her claim th compared to begins to fall crows only s to larks. Do issue here is absolute val which are al always beau



#### Context: Act 5

The final act of *The Merchant of Venice* begins with a list of famous lovers from by Lorenzo. As the scene develops, the audience witnesses revelations and refluence of the play. This scene is similar to the play as a whole in that it is looking and economic traditions. *The Merchant of Venice* elegises the end of these traditions they began to be eroded by the reform of the Renaissance. The Jews would so 1868 a Jew called Benjamin Disraeli would become the sister of England.









#### **Character Summaries**

## The Venetians



## Antonio

Antonio is a sad and leady haveter, but the audience ne unhappy. Have have and he assures us risky and he assures in trading ships. Although the play is national assured as far as the plot is concerned is worst enemy Shylock the Jew to help his friend Bassan Antonio risks his life to help his friend. He is generous and

## Bassanio

Bassanio is a young man who has wasted almost all of his money on a reckless lifestyle. He plans to marry a rich heiress called Portia to pay his debts. He gets the money to finance his trip from his friend Antonio. Bassanio shows he understands what love is by making the right choice in the casket test and successfully marries Portia. Although he is irresponsible with money, he is well liked by all his friends, since he is honest, handsome and has a good way with words.



#### !-- Onec

Mrenzo is a Venetian and a friend of Bassanio and Antonio. He falls in love with Jessica, Shylock's daughter. They end up running away with lots of Shylock's money and eventually marry.

#### Gratiano

Gratiano is the sort of person who can't stop himself from talking. He sometimes says things that are inappropriate, but he is honest, perceptive and funny. We can often rely on him to tell us the truth about characters and situations in the play. We learn more about Antonio and Bassanio by comparing their behaviour to Gratiano's.



## The Palacy Venice

The vertice is the judge who supervises Shylock and seak leader as he is unable to save Antonio from his bore to Shylock to be merciful, which fails. When Portia saves the by sparing his life and shows he is a good Christian.





#### Solanio and Salarino

Solanio and Salarino, like Antonio, are two Venetian merchants. We rely on them to give us information about Antonio's trading ships and Shylock's court case against Antonio.





## The Venetian Fools

#### Laune

Launcelot is Shylock's servant but he ends up leaving him and serving Bassanio
Although Shylock isn't a kind master, Launcelot cares about and assists his d
Jessica. Launcelot plays funny tricks on his blind father, which gives the play
element and balances the more serious issues in t



## Old Gobbo

Old Gobbo is Laur of Line father. He loves his son job where to the sted well by his master. Gobbo son his large of the same o

## The Ladies From



## Portia

Portia is a beautiful heiress from Belmont. When her fat beautiful mansion and lots of money, but no husband. Recannot choose her own husband, and worries she may be doesn't like. She is clever and funny. She often plays wither stupid suitors. At the end of the play, she outwits all giving the play a happy ending.

#### Ngris

Nerissa is Control of Sant and friend. Like Portia, she is clever with words ayrul banter with her mistress suggests that they enjoy an interest relationship. She ends up marrying and outwitting Grater



## The Jews Of Venice

## Shylo

Shylock is a Jewish moneylender. He charges interest on his loans and this make unpopular with the Venetian Christian establishment when it is prove of his busing practices. He and Antonio hate each other deeplated his leads him to lend Antonio and the condition that if he does rot the money back, Shylock will be at ocut a pound of flesh from Actionio. The audience feels a mixture of revulsion sympathy for Shylock the extraordhie he does not show mercy to Antonio and cares more program people, he is abused by the Venetians. He loses his daughter are uccast, and this might provoke pity from the audience.



#### Jøssica

Jessica is Shylock's daughter. She loves Lorenzo and plaguilty about running away from her father and having to Although she is a minor character, her moral dilemman sympathetic.

Tubal is a rich Jow which sits Shylock in setting us similar to Gratian. It Sharino in that he provides us where Sharino is the bad news about his daughter. All soesn't seem to be very sympathetic to him, and



## The Suitors To Portie

## The Prince of Arragon

The Prince of Arragon tries and fails to win Portia picks the silver box in the casket test. His incorreinterested in himself than other people.



Tip. Frince of Moro

The Prince of Morocco is an additional boastful suitor to Portia. He picks the gold in the capacite doesn't get to marry Portia. Morocco and Arragon ser contrast to Antonio and Base

COPYRIGHT PROTECTED

Zie Zee Education

## Major Character Analyse

Characterisation is the process through which characters are created and

#### Antonio

Antonio is a character who earns our admiration but also is lisgust. His loyalty friend Bassanio is intense and selfless. He enters and a selfless are entered as a selfless and selfless. Shylock, his worst enemy, so that Bassar a chance at wooing Portia. describes him as 'Antonio the Howard (13) while Lorenzo calls him a 'true mentions the way be willing to risk his 'soul' (V.i.253) for Bassanio, we proof of the and admiration he has of his friend. Antonio's faith in Bassanio to succeed a sacrifice of his body which he offers to atone for Bassanio's pr reminds us of the sacrifice that Christians believe Jesus made for us, so that our si forgiven, allowing us to be eligible for heaven. But in another way, Antonio's path anti-Semitism makes him repellent. He repeatedly insults Shylock, and we have re from the Jew that this abuse also occurred in the past, before the action of the play Antonio has notably few lines, considering the play is named after him. In Act Fou One, the courtroom scene where his life is at risk, he is passive and reluctant to en arguments. In Act Five, Scene One, the final scene of the play, he is a solitary figure surrounded by married couples. Antonio is a complicated and compelling charact since he is at once social and antisocial, generous and mean, saintly and demonic.



#### Shylock

Although Shylock is the villain of the play, a modern day consider him the tragic hero. His had ed of Antonio see founded on the insults and the day and 'kicking' he Three. But his almost on he dead commitment to seek confirms the gast pinions the Venetians have of his villaiter of the day. His emotional outburst and powerful educations. He is also obviously proud of his Jewish herit finds that Jessica has abandoned him. He is strangely quite is told he must either convert to Christianity or be executed.

of his emotional devastation and 'speechlessness' at being told he must abandon insulting language used by the Venetians for describing Shylock: 'cut-throat dog', 'unfeeling man', 'inexecrable dog', 'cruel devil', 'dog Jew', 'impenetrable cur', 'cur



#### **Extended Essay Question**

Is Shylock the victim or the villain in this play? How do you think original responded to this character and why do you think our response today.

#### **Portia**

Portia is a character we can relate to emotionally for two readens. Firstly, she is right to make important choices in her life because of and year, Scene One. She is a highest character because she outwits Shylochia id a posses his lack of mercy. But she all her husband, and demonstrationally expressive and articulate, explained in Act Five, Since One. She is emotionally expressive and articulate, exphilosophic of the comments that she is 'weary of this great world' (I.ii.1), which sound like a characters lack, and this is demonstrated in her comments on he Act One, Scene Two. Shylock and Antonio are unable to see past their mutual has relatively fair considering the historical context of the play. She offers mercy to character in the play to offer a solution which would resolve Shylock and Antonio subversive and daring for Shakespeare to have such a strong and active female of



#### Relationships

#### Antonio and Bassanio

Antonio and Bassanio are best friends. Antonio can be viewed as being very kind keeps lending him money and even has to ask his worst enemy, Shylock, for help happy. On the surface of things, they appear to be beginned at the friends. However to Bassanio; perhaps a true friend would try to cub hackessive lifestyle rather continue.

Antonio (d. ) Ser

Antonio an ck ao not like each other. Antonio is firstly presented as being in his treatm. Of people, however his treatment of Shylock in the past shows us Shylock sees the loan and the bond of a pound of flesh as revenge upon a person. When Antonio cannot pay, he demands his flesh and refuses mercy; this shows is relationship shows us different sides to both of these characters.

#### **Bassanio** and Portia

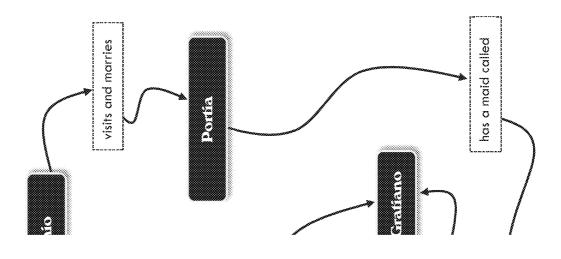
At the beginning, Bassanio sees Portia as a way to repay his debts; she is rich and chooses the correct casket in the casket test, showing that he understands the tresoon fall for each other and marry, although one could argue that he marries for according to her father's wishes. The ring trick hints that their marriage might n

#### Shylock and Jessica

Shylock and Jessica are father and daughter. Jessica does wilke Shylock as she knows that Shylock would be against such a match with him he is out at dinner, she jewels from his house in order to elope with him elements of Shylock is extremely angry Jessica feels guilty but Shylock wilker when Alongside the religious dimenultimately Jessica and Shilach was aughter and her father going through a type as the daughter or which are independence, the father tries to restrict he breaks.



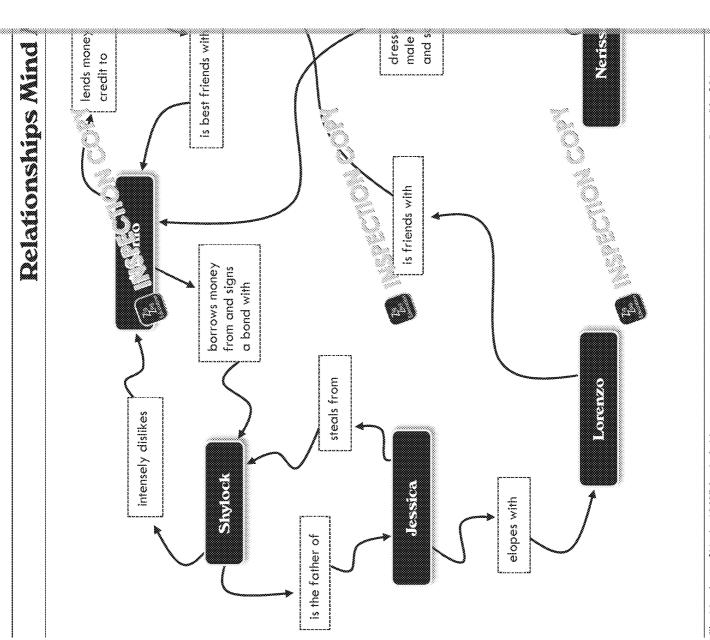




## INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT





#### Settings and Props

A setting is a location where major events occur. A prop is something that is us or a concept.

#### Settings

#### Venice

Venice is the place of commerce and a new within the play; it is the central setting and of the main action. Two merchant And Bassanio, discuss their financial sit and monetary needs. Antonio strikes a deal with more render Shylock, which he is subsequently unable to pay. Events in Venice are concerned with the daily reality of things: money, commerce, law, justice. However, Venice can also be seen as a place of political intrigue and racism. Despite this play's status as a comedy, Shylock is abused by both Venetian men (Antonio



specifically) and the Venetian court system as a whole. Despite making a bond is surrender his claims and is robbed of his religious faith when he is made to convout more about Venice in the Context section of this guide.)

#### Belmont

Belmont embodies the world of a courtly past. It is a world of culture, of laughte cultivated upper-class people. The language used by the Belmont characters is combellished than the Venetians'. Belmont is an archaic combellished than the Venetians'.

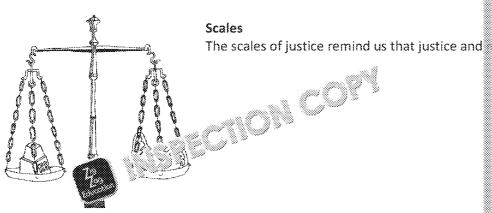
#### The Venetian Court

The Venetian Court is a contain cartion for the climax of the play. It is where Shamercy and property of the play of the roles of women in society by dressing up as male lawy

#### **Props**

#### Rings

Rings are traditionally symbols of fidelity and loyalty between two people. Porticular husbands rings to symbolise this and make them promise to never take them off the two men give the rings back to the two women, who are at that point in disgnot always as simple as it appears to be and perhaps hints that these marriages





#### Themes

A theme is an important subject that occurs throughou

#### Major Themes

#### Sacrifice and Love

The primary theme in *The Merchant of Version* friendship, and the sacrifices and we want to be a good friend. Ant and its freedom, money and life to help Ba Shylock is concerned, he will a with a example of Jesus. Antonio's saintly status is s him 'hones' in his praise at the

Christians bo hat God disapproves of our immoral behaviour, and because 🛭 cannot be truly forgiven for our sins without some sort of sacrifice. They believe the world so that he could be punished in our place. Bassanio, with his reckless while Antonio could be like Jesus, who sacrifices himself to help us. The bond, w Scene One and organised in Act One, Scene Three, can be read as a metaphor fo

But nothing in Shakespeare is that simple. This is why we still read his plays 400 Act One, Scene Three, Shylock describes Antonio's offensive behaviour towards in Act Three, Scene Three. Jesus teaches us to 'turn the other cheek' and to tole Antonio's name-calling is concerned, he doesn't follow Jesus' example (although end of the play).

Shakespeare's original audience would have immediately recognised Antonio's g would probably not have been sympathetic towards Antonio's treatment of Shy have compared and contrasted Antonio lending money to sanio without intelline condemned in Act One, Scene Three. Remember (Act C) Stians who did not follow the Church of England has were burned at the stake in Elizabethan Englar services interpreters of the play, and citizens of any second Britain, we are more sensitive to SI Sabuse, and we probably have no he charging of interest on loans. Our entire

#### Debate P

Antonio is 🖹 moralistic, willing to n

#### Loyalty and Heritage

economy is beed upon the principle.

The second major theme of the play centres on the female characters. In many Shakespeare's plays, the women are often much more interesting than the men status as second-class citizens they must be more cunning to get by in the world Jessica are faced with the dilemma of either obeying their fathers' commands, in loyal to their heritage, or making their own decisions in life.



Portia explains her dilemma in Act One, Scene Three. Her father ha her to choose her own husband, and Portia must have faith that he casket system will select the appropriate husband for her. The cask dilemma in the play. Jessica has a verus an additional. She can ei loyal to her father. She choose to a south her father and her religious play by her selling of \* Land of for a monkey, described by Tubal in A

When Bas Gratiano give away their rings in Act Four, Scen promises transportation with the state of the promises transportation with the female of the female not an optic wir choices are absolute, which means that there is no going back for them. In

enormous pressure to convert to Anglicanism and conform with the rest of society. Can you think of any contemporary interpretations of this theme?

Elizabethan England, Catholics were put under

Extended N How is the to play? Answ marriages, father/da Antonio and Bassanio



#### **Minor Themes**

#### Appearance and Reality

The **casket test** symbolises the first minor theme of the play, which is the choice. Characters like the Prince of Morocco and the Prince of Arragon are rejected by only concerned with beautiful appearance in Act Two, Scene Seven and Act Two, that 'all that glisters is not gold' (65). Bassanio chooses lead to be ecause of its quiet love is about inner beauty. The **moral** of the **cask** at stationary that outer beauty does worth. Beautiful things may have rotter.

Gobbo and Launcelot to a scheme in their comic mistakes in Act Two, Scenecognise his and an acelot pretends not to be who he is. Shylock's use of salso exemples is theme. Although Shylock uses examples from the Old Testa what Antonio believes to be the essence of religion: forgiveness and selflessness minor as opposed to major are that there are no related **dilemmas** and it doesn' play in Act Four, Scene One, Antonio's trial scene.



#### **Active Learning Task**

Thinking about the casket test, in pairs create a new updated version of objects as examples. What would you put in your three caskets? Which

#### Mercy and Justice

The conflict between Antonio and Shylock is essentially a contrast between the operation of the Bible is made of two parts, the Old Testament, which was we prophets, and the New Testament, which was written by the disciples of Jesus. In parts, largely vengeful. The enemies of his chosen we were the New Testament, Jesus asks us to forgive and the pursue venges.

Shylock is given opportuniting the mree, Scene Three and Act Four, Scene On abuse and care the proof friesh clause in his bond, but instead insists on rev. Scene One, the proof Venice and Antonio could sentence him to death, but insthat he convert. Shakespeare's original audience would have consight have even found it funny that a Jew had to convert.

For a modern reader of the play, is justice really served? The Merchant of Venice



#### **Extended Essay Question 2**

Neither true mercy nor true justice is served in The Merchant of Venice. Discuss.

a happy ending with play today as the 'Tr's resembles Shakespe and Hamlet, in that t flaws lead them to se

#### Music

All Shakespeare's plays would have been performed with makes accompaniment, but music is particularly conspicing the second merchant of Venice.

When Bassanio makes his since to be played and a song is performed. Periods to be played and a song is performed. Periods on how the music will sound sad if Bassanio make the correct choice and happy if he makes the correct choice. Thus our mood changes our perception of reality. The meaning of the music is **relative** to our inner state. The inner is connected to the outer. Reread the lyrics of this song and Lorenzo's speech about and explore why it is relevant, considering the other themes of the play.



#### Racism

Shylock is universally despised in this play. He is treated with suspicion by Antor Scene Three where Antonio calls him a 'smiling villain' (95) and at the end of the the courtroom scene in Act Four, Scene One. But the Venetians make clear that racism. Shylock's usury and lack of mercy are specified as the reasons for his unboth Jews, but since they can empathise with people they don't seem to be abusis. It is more accurate to say that this play is about culture and religious conform

On the other hand, although Jessica has a large renounced Judaism and her father, and it is lear to the audience that she and Shylock are not of the proposed, she is treated differently from the Classical Valenans. Launcelot treats her with mock suspicion in the scenes where she

**Debate F**This play is

suspicion in ree, Scene Five, and in the scenes where she and Lorenzo are in Belmont, she generally remains silent. At the end of the play to Christianity. *The Merchant of Venice* is technically a comedy, which means the marriages as opposed to death. Can Jessica and Shylock be treated as equals not the Venetians? Or is the cultural racism of the Venetians too strong?

#### **Morality Plays**

One of Shakespeare's biggest influences in writing his plays were the 'morality phundred years before Shakespeare was born. They were very simple, and were religious occasions. The characters in morality plays were personifications of mowhen a character represents something abstract. Characters in morality plays of honesty and generosity, or vices, like greed and envy.

Considering this important part of Shakespeare's literary by age, how far can T considered a morality play? Think of what virtues as V is the primary character. The reason Shakespeare is such a famous at its limit he took the morality play and naïve, and wrote plays whose after the same time, and it is often hard to decide a same time, and it is often hard to decide





## Form

Form refers to the way that the text is written and how it is present

of a certain number of scenes. Acts could be seen as the individual chapters within each volume. However, the one major difference between a play and the plays were written to be perfected destood when they are read aloud; they come to life through the formation and a play, all of which can be valid. Compare a nineteenth-century staging of this play with a modern interpretation; while the many factors can be different. These can include staging, lighting, costumes, set focus of a scene. This is what makes plays alive in a different way to other forms

Shakespeare was writing his plays in the late 1500s and early 1600s. He began he then moved on to histories and tragedies. *The Merchant of Venice* is believed to 1596 and 1599. Although technically a comedy, as the play ends with marriages moments. Shylock's speech in Act 3, Scene 1 is one such example. Shakespeare concept of a morality play, a play with very two-dimensional characters that told complex exploration of what makes people human. He took the morality play for altogether much more modern: an exploration of humanity. It is for this reason Shakespeare's plays are relevant to everyone across different historical periods; human nature that are eternally true.

The play as a form is very changeable; it is hard to pinpoint what the text means different visual interpretations. While the action of a novel takes place inside the occurs on the stage. A novel usually has one specific author whereas the form of its authorship. In Shakespeare's time especially, although a playwright would wreactors would often change things according to their interpretations. These chan within different theatre companies. Therefore, the text of the play would gradupoem, the spoken words of a play were always changing. This process still occur that the play as a form is much more dynamic than any other.





# **Ideas and Messages**

At the time in which this play was written, Jewish people were not allowed to liv would have been seen as normal. Christians disliked Jews for many reasons, one lend money to other people. This was called usury and it was forbidden for Chris were upset because Jewish people were able to earn monor of the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the idea of Judaism in several ways. We said see the interest the explores the explores the interest the explores the explores the ex

The ideas of love and self-interest run throughout the play. Characters such as A of love, whereas other characters such as Shylock and even Jessica seem to act p. However, things are not so simple. Jessica acts out of self-interest when she steefor Lorenzo that drives her to act like this. She subsequently feels guilt over her resentment rather than self-interest. Antonio helps Bassanio out of love but also once Bassanio is married to a rich heiress, he would stop asking Antonio for morare all human; none of us are inherently good or inherently bad. By creating chawith more than one side to their personalities, Shakespeare is perhaps telling us faults, we are all human beings who should be mindful of each other. He also be morality play in order to explore exactly what it is the



Po' a sconcept is important throughout the balance of emotion, and the balance of frie relationship is finally balanced once Bassanio is him, he introduces him to his future wife. It is scales of justice between Shylock and Antonio; justice and mercy. The two couples are married the gender relationships. The message here is all things for there to be happiness and stability



## Writer's Techniques

## Language

The Merchant of Venice has two distinct styles of language: the plain, practical la Venice and the elaborate, showy language of the court of Belmont. Although Shuses different techniques to develop each distinct stylesh Belmont and Venice concern over the distinction between reality and presented, and making judger about value.

Salarino and Sclanic for yone Venetian merchant. They are informal and plaspeaking, a topossip. Solanio describes Antonio in very simple terms as 'they do use vive language, it is usually ironic. In Act Three, Scene One, for condemns Jessica, Salarino comments that 'there is more difference between the and ivory' (32–33). This sarcastic simile which comments on a very serious issue degree of detachment from reality. It is also worth noting that precious commos someone's personality.

Shylock similarly uses plain, rhetorically structured language. His famous speech little direct metaphorical language. Instead, he uses rhetorical repetitions and liscompares the possessions of Jews and Christians, like 'hands, organs, dimension value judgement that Jews are just as prone to revenge as Christians. When he playfully instead of seriously. For example in Act Two, Scene Four, he orders Jess mean my casements' (33). When he uses the metaphor, he immediately explain considers figurative language as suitable for jokes, not for serious matters. We fin Act One, Scene One when Solanio playfully lists various which could

The courtiers of Belmont, on the other had be a mail figurative language very himself to 'Hercules' (II.i.35), and also it with dark skin as the 'burnished livery is technically the hero of a subset uses suitably heroic language to describe himself to by Bassanic hanging from her temples like a golden fleece' (I.i.16) Jason the A section 1.16

In the casket test, the three metals of gold, silver and lead are personified, which means they are given human characteristics. Bassanio describes lead's 'paleness' being more persuasive than 'eloquence' (III.ii.106), while silver is the 'common drudge between man and man' (III.ii.103–104). Judgements of value

Debate Practice of the control of th

are established in the play by comparisons to precious metals and mythical hero Venice and Belmont are very different, they share their chief concern, which is dworth of people.

#### Tone

The Merchant of Venice is a comedy, as opposed to a trace by The play has a half nor Shylock being executed in the courtroom see (e. b) play ends with three mand Lorenzo marrying Portia, Nerissa (1) (1) respectively.

There are, however the state of securing the state of the Verger and the securing state of the securing state



## Style

Shakespeare uses two formal styles in his plays: blank verse and prose.

Blank verse is made up of lines ten syllables long which generally do not rhyme. the lines do not reach the end of the page. These ten syllables have a rhythm which will be similar to the beat of your heart, dum-DUM, dum-DUM, dum-DUM. The pentameter. When Shakespeare introduces rhyme in the scene or introduces rhyming phrases often summarise what has heapt the scene or introduces.

Prose is generally used by the pircular acters of the play, like Launcelot and Gowhere the lines to riving the end of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reform like by the page, like a novel. Although there is reformed by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reformed by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reformed by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reformed by the second of the page, like a novel. Although there is reformed by the second of the page, like a novel. Although the

#### Structure

The structure refers to how a play is organised and the relationshi

The play is made up of five acts, which are made up of individual scenes. The play Venice of merchants and traders and the Belmont court of finery and sophistical when Bassanio visits Portia and when Portia pretends to be a young lawyer and

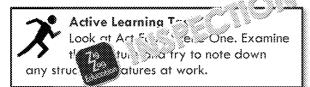
Act 1 introduces the main characters of the play. Act 2 so to launch the confithe play. The animosity between Shylock and An' and its tablished while Portia the casket test is also delineated.

Act 3 presents three mines seemed. Bassanio wins Portia in the casket test we pay his bor

The **climax** is when the major source of tension in the play, the issue which suppoccurs in the courtroom scene of Act Four. A climax will provoke anxiety in the awhether Shylock will get his pound of flesh. A climax is generally followed by cat the major theme of the play. This is solved either in a character dying or the issue.

The **dénouement** is the conclusion of the story, and occurs in Act Five of this platup with Lorenzo and Portia's discussions of music and good deeds, and the relations Gratiano, Bassanio and their wives are reiterated. In Elizabethan comedy, it was with marriages.

Shakespeare was building on the traditional structures of sixteenth century plays characters and purely comic characters that heighten the serious and comic scenes next to each other for the serious and comic scenes next to ea



**Debate Prom**This play is very
Discuss.



## Context

## Shakespeare's Time

The Merchant of Venice was written by William Shakespeare between 1596 and 159 England since 1290, so the play was written in a time when there had been no Jews It is impossible to know whether Shakespeare intended his again all audiences to fee modern audiences do. Shylock's speech in Act 3. Scone containly hints that Shakes saw Jews as sub-human; they have the sarge an prood in their veins as Christian could simply have been a way for frak is beare to explore the complexity of human r defence of Judaism.

In the late 1 izabeth I was still on the English throne. She had been queen sin woman, ever wany brought relative stability to a tempestuous century. Her father, Henry had reformed the Church significantly in England. He had banned Roman Cat recognised form of Christian worship in England, and created a new Church of Engla Protestantism originated in Germany and questioned many things about Catholicism the need for ornaments and icons, what actually happened at the Eucharist, and in w practised. After his death, the throne passed briefly to his son, who subsequently di committed Roman Catholic, then became queen and persecuted all the Christians p then took control later the same year and reinstated a modified Church of England. people feared for their lives based on their religious practices. When Shakespeare v play, things had settled enough for him to be able to compare a Jew and a Christian different types of Christianity were avoided; he relied on patronage and wished to st



The mid to late 1500s also saw a rise in Western exploration of the I influence in the setting of Belmont. Primarily Scanish and Portugue explore the Americas and to see what race and wotic materials they more prominence in overseas ്രൂർ.് ് ചെയ്മ്പ്ടേ in nautical engine Shakespearean plays in Tempest.

The Elizabethan ara, " given to the period of Elizabeth I's yor ွား for drama and literature; there was a great reign, was vi from writers such as Shakespeare and Marlowe. outpouring & It seems that Elizabeth liked and appreciated dramatic works. Times changed somewhat when the monarchy changed in 1603 and King James I of England came to the English throne. James was a very moral man who feared witches; thus Shakespeare changed the source material of Macbeth to represent a combating of such fears. It is important to remember how much Shakespeare was reliant on

the secon® including: Shakespe the mona any other

the goodwill of the reigning monarch during the period when his plays were written

This period was also when England began to seriously examine Renaissance ideas th previous century. The Renaissance asked people to look again at what made us hun culture, and to explore how we could be cultured human beings. It looked at what i tendency to barbarise any cultures that were not Roman or Appliant Greek. Hence, start of the Renaissance came to be known as the Dark & Shakespeare led the E firstly wrote in English; he created many word; that he wonce become part of the la level of cultural validity as Latin or Angian Grand He also took the medieval simplis forced us to question why pegative to the way that they do. His multi-faceted character

le Essay Question

skespeare intend his original audiences to feel sorry for Shylock and for Shylock to be a tragic figure, or is this the

result of our modern-day interpretation of the play? What does this tell you about the play as a form?

looked towards a new emerging during the l trade, overseas comm individual prosperity beginning to look dec medieval. Shakespea complex morality of h of Venice.



#### Venice

#### Who was in charge in Venice?

Venice was a **city state** and a **republic**. A republic is a type of political organisation queen. This means Venice was not part of a country, because the country 'Italy' is set. Most Italian cities, like Milan or Florence, were surrounded by walls and the lands indirectly.

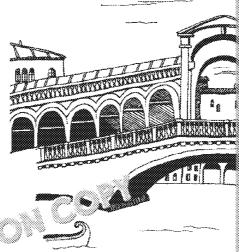
Although Venice was ruled by a Duke, the Duke was a wed. He did not inherit is monarchs did. If a Duke was unponution he would be removed by peaceful means famous for having a very stable from it government and a very conservative soc by any foreign powers and power times (Napoleon in 1797).

Since Venice it on a chain of islands it is not technically connected to the man had some level of independence from the continent of Europe, much like Englan

Venice is a **metaphor** for England. You might want to consider the similarities and differences between Venice and London.

#### What was Venice like?

Venice is on the coast of the north of Italy, near the Adriatic Sea. Venice was one of the main trade routes into the east, until alternative trade routes were discovered. It was a cosmopolitan city because many foreign traders from the East visited it to sell their products in Europe. Shakespeare may have found it easier to write exciting stories committely because he was able to a committely because he was able to a characters declarate at the



Ponte Rialto

time) like N Ficans and Jews. Venice had a reputation for being a luxurious who lived there would have had better access to luxury items, such as silk, spices in Shakespeare's London. It is also a city where canals are used instead of roads decorated with marble. Venetians lived in a crowded city where they were cons in the water. This makes Venice a good place to set a story about vanity and general constraints.

#### Why did Jews live in Venice?

In Shakespeare's time, there were no Jews in England. The only people who wow were aristocratic men, who travelled in Europe and visited places like Venice and expelled from England by King Edward I in 1290, as they were blamed for the platthe thirteenth century. Jews only officially returned to England in 1656. Althoug Venice, they didn't have the rights of a citizen of Venice. They had to distinguish gaberdine (a sort of cloak) and a red hat. They couldn't controlled to make become doctors or moneylenders.

They were also forbidden to live with a marry Christians, and had to live in a segment. If a Jewish mare the segment relationship with a Christian woman, he was Christians very scale and from participating in Jewish festivals. The ghetto was of moat, and the segment of the se

One of the reasons Jews were allowed to live in Venice was that they could lend be heavily taxed by the Venetian state. This was one of the reasons Venice was



#### Anti-Semitism

The representation of Jews and anti-Semitism is a significant feature of *The Merc* linked to the issue of racism — a problem that is still prevalent in our society and, audiences today. The persecution of Jewish people is also a momentous and tra. Throughout history, Jews have suffered from two primary sources of suffering: (against them from people of other religions, and (2) their lack of a homeland. The discrimination and harassment in Europe, and this real to when the Nazi Part 1933 to 1945. The Nazis began a programme whose converse were based on unfounded mistakenly claimed that Jews are preparately inferior to non-Jews. The Nazis ki known as the Holocaus

In *The Merc* Venice, Jews are second-class citizens. They do not have the Christians. Even though Jessica converts to Christianity at the end of the play, si 'blood', she is not treated the same as those who were born Christians. This sug Jewish is more than just religious doctrine; it is a *racial* issue. Although there main London in Elizabethan England, Judaism had no official presence in England. Tintegrating into English culture was their rejection of Jesus as the Son of God. In that Jesus was the Son of God was a major tenet of cultural identity, and one of unpopular in the play is that he refuses to accept this.







# **Key Terms Glossary**

All fields of study have technical terms, whether we are studying plants, people understand what each of these terms mean. A good way to do this is by coming If you decide to highlight the use of one of these literary techniques in an assess explain what effect it has upon the audience and if it und the best or complement.

Alliteration:	This is when two vor begin with the same sound.
Assonance:	This is the middle of two words share the same vow
Blank verse:	ာ် ျာစ်etic form where each foot of a line is stressed ဖ
	and each line has five feet, creating lambic pentameter.
Characteric Characteric	The process through which characters are created and pre
City state:	A city that has its own government, in the same way that a
Climax:	When the main source of tension in the plot is resolved.
Cosmopolitan:	Incorporating many different nationalities and national cul
Dénouement:	The ending of the story.
Dilemma:	An extremely difficult decision between two options.
Double entendre:	A double meaning, often used in Shakespeare's plays for c
Dramatic irony:	Occurs when the audience are aware of a detail/details the
	aware of.
Elope:	To run away with a partner in an affair.
Empathise:	To be able to understand or relate to someone else's situa
Euphemism:	When we use a polite word to express a more risqué idea
Figurative	When someone uses language to commeanings other th
language:	
Form:	The way in which the way in which the r
Heroic language:	A form <b>the language</b> when a character alludes to see a language when a character alludes a language when a language when a character alludes a language when a language whe
Irony:	A linguistic device by which writers express something that
Malapropr	When a character uses the wrong word accidentally to con
Metaphor:	When a writer describes two unlikely things as literally sha
	'x is like y', a metaphor uses 'x is a y'.
Prop:	Something that is used in the play to convey a message or
Prose:	A form of written speech that reflects the style of ordinary
	structure.
Prosody:	The way words sound when you read them aloud.
Pun:	When two words that are spelt exactly the same but mean
ALCONOMINATOR ROMINIMOS REPRINTANTOS REPRINTANTANTOS REPRINTANTOS REPRINTANTOS REPRINTANTOS REPRINTANTANTOS REPRINTANTANTOS REPRINTANTANTANTANTANTA REPRINTANTANTANTANTANTANTA REPRINTANTANTANTANTANTANTANTANTANTANTANTANTAN	comic effect.
Republic:	A country/state without a king or queen.
Rhetoric:	This is a broad term which includes many techniques, but it
	repetition of a certain sentence the im
Scripture:	The writings contained with 11th abie.
Setting:	A location who we fail given to occur.
Simile:	Wher a secompares one thing to another using like or the last mings which share one quality.
Soliloquy:	An individual speech by a character, when the other chara
Solipsistic:	Caring only about oneself and one's own view of the world
Structure:	How the play is organised and the relationship between its
Taboo:	A religious rule/principle forbidding members of the religio
Verse:	Speech written in a poetic form i.e. with rhyme and metre
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Speech written in a poetic form i.e. with my me and mede

# 



## Further Reading

Adelman, J. (2008) Blood relations: Christians and Jews in the Merchant of Venice Chicago Press.

Cerasano, S. P. (ed.) (2003) A Routledge literary source house in William Shakespe York, NY: Routledge.

Danson, L. (1978) The harmonia of Venice' New Haven, CN: Y

Hinely, J. (1998) Box prifies in The Merchant of Venice. Studies in English Li 217–239. Republic of the Merchant of Venice. Studies in English Li 217–239. Republic of the Merchant of Venice. Studies in English Li

Holderness, G. (2016) Shakespeare and Venice London: Routledge.

Holmer, J. O. (1995) The Merchant of Venice: Choice, hazard and consequence

Janik, V. (2003) The Merchant of Venice: A guide to the play Westport, CN: Gree

Kiberd, D. (1981) The Merchant of Venice: Notes Harlow: Longman.

Krane, E. (1996) Shylock and the king of England New York, NY: Vantage Press.

Lyon, J. (1988) The Merchant of Venice New York, NY: Harvester Wheatsheaf.

McPherson, D. C. (1990) Shakespeare, Jonson, and thousand by Venice Newark,

Rozmovits, L. (1998) Shakespeare and the late Victorian Engline University Press.

Shapiro, J. (Sh.) Lespeare and the Jews New York, NY: Colombia University

Siera, H. (ed.) (2013) New readings of the Merchant of Venice Newcastle: Cambrill

Slights, C. (1980) In defense of Jessica: The runaway daughter in The Merchant Quarterly, 31(3), 357–368. Retrieved from http://www.jstor.org/stable/28691

Wilders, J. (ed.) (1969) The Merchant of Venice: A casebook London: Macmillan.

Yaffe, M. D. (1997) Shylock and the Jewish question London: Johns Hopkins Uni





## Suggested Answers

#### Act 1, Scene 1

#### Active Learning Task 1

Antonio is a merchant; he is the merchant of Venice. Bassanio needs to borrow money is Belmont to meet the rich heiress Portia; he hopes to solve him worries through me

#### Active Learning Task 2

- The play starts with uncertainty a pureates a mood of suspense right from the stechnique that is a subject of the play.
- Look economic Act 2, there are several points at which the mood of suspand for the audience. In Scene 1, we learn that the Prince of Morocco forbit from marrying anyone else if he chooses wrongly; this builds suspens choose the correct one.
- Gobbo and Launcelot are comic characters whose purpose is to punctuate the n
  of the Act.
- When Launcelot says goodbye to Jessica and she wonders how her future will ususpense and doubt with her; we wonder what will happen to her, how she will and whether she will love her new husband enough to warrant her loss of a fath action, the audience feels the suspense with them, wondering whether they will house.

#### **Active Learning Task 3**

- On the surface of things, this simile tells us that Portia is probably blonde, classis about her.
- In reality, this probably tells us more about Bassanio's motives than it does about desperate to make Portia like him; he wants to make a properties impression. He does figurative language to liken her to the great by antiquity, something the compliment at that time.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- However, he could also be seen as arrogant, sure that he would not be made to
- It can also be argued that perhaps he is too nice to Bassanio. If he had perhaps earlier, Bassanio's debts at the start of the play might not have been so great.

#### Act 1, Scene 2

#### **Active Learning Task 1**

Nerissa is Portia's servant and best friend. Portia cannot marry whomever she wants be died to ensure that she would marry a good man; she respects him too much to defy him suitor because he is a drunkard.

#### Active Learning Task 2

Credit should be given for any staging. The two women could be wispering, shouting, gwith the suitors, inside or outside, it could be in modern draw with speech. The ke staging of a scene and think about how it could be not seen and the not see

#### **Active Learning Task 3**

- Portia and Nerise stain appearisms. They also use many other devices within language and rhetoric.
- The page contrasts sharply with the direct and literal language used by the
- The contrast shows the difference between the two worlds of the play. Venice
  mercantile transactions; the language is direct, literal and honest. Belmont is the
  suitors and casket tests, of archaic antiquity; the language is formal, figurative a
  different types of language, the play highlights the real differences between the



#### **Debate Prompt**

- It can be argued that we should never disobey rules. They are there for a reaso
  obeys her father's casket test despite being frustrated by her inability to choose
  in her father's wisdom.
- However, sometimes rules might be ethically or morally wrong. If we feel deep can be argued that we then have a moral duty to disobey that rule in order to list

#### Act 1, Scene 3

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given here for any rolling in the large. Any relevant props, locations and so The key point here is for the state of state of state of the state of state of

#### Debate Pro

- Fron stian point of view, making money on money-lending was considered who did this, mostly Jewish people, were therefore morally despicable. It can be this, that we should lend money to friends for no other reason than Christian chemical control of the control o
- However, for Jews such as Shylock who were not allowed to hold property, there
  could make a living. One such way was through money-lending. Known as usur
  one way that Jews could earn money. As they were faced with the prospect of
  people did this.

#### Act 2, Scene 1

#### Active Learning Task 1

Any relevant staging should be given credit here. Students should show visual evidence the scene should be staged in terms of costumes, how the lines are spoken, setting, etc. that are made should reflect the choice of location.

#### **Active Learning Task 2**

- The Prince of Morocco uses heroic language to go of utilis military victories have a positive effect when he uses the ends up looking foolish. His was a language therefore has the opposite effort when he uses the ends up looking foolish. His was a language therefore has the opposite effort when he was a language therefore has the language there where the language therefore has the language there where the language there were the language there where the language there were the language there where the language there were the language there were the language there were the language there were the language the language the language the language the language there were the language the
- 'The shadow'd liver: ്രാങ്ക്'d sun,

To whom! and near bred.' (2–3)

🔹 'By 🥻 nit 🦠

That the Sophy and a Persian prince

That won three fields of Sultan Solyman,

I would outstare the sternest eyes that look' (24-27)

- 'If Hercules and Lichas play at dice
  - Which is the better man, the greater throw

May turn by fortune from the weaker hand: (32-34)

- 'So is Alcides beaten by his page;
  - And so may I, blind fortune leading me,

Miss that which one unworthier may attain,

And die with grieving.' (35-38)

#### Act 2, Scene 2

#### **Active Learning Task**

- The comic puns and malaproprisms of Launce shapes t samply with the hero Morocco.
- The comic language returns the work of the human and the work
- The comic language of the heroic language; it shows the language company company with normal matters.

#### Debate Pron

- It can be argued that we can change our religion and/or heritage easily as Jessic father and marries a Christian. She becomes a person with a new identity seem
- However, the play also hints that it might not be so simple to change our religion
   Shylock only converts when he is forced to do so and Jessica feels guilt about he



#### Act 2, Scene 3

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any relevant understanding of this scene.

#### **Extended Essay Question**

- Jessica's attitude differs to Portia's in that Jessica defies her living father whilst dead father.
- It is arguable as to which attitude is presented as fellow fellow fellow fellow fellow to obey fathers, Portia's attitude is correct the saver, Jessica might have felt for unreasonable attitudes of house fellow fe
- It is clear that, in the second of this play was written, Portia's attitude we in this play received and a new way of thinking where individuals take responsibility this play peak of that found within Renaissance ideas of the self.

#### Act 2, Scene 4

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any relevant costume design. If possible, the costumes could fashion show. The point is to encourage student engagement with the text through cost.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- Gratiano, Solanio and Salarino's quick, short sentences make the audience awar
- They need to work quickly and they must be aware of the time. The short sented dialogue; the play gathers pace as events quickly unfold.

#### Act 2, Scene 5

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any ideas relating to the set design of the interior of Shylock's

#### **Debate Prompt**

- Shylock seems to care only for said y a profit; his servant and daughter leave reasons to do with love of ovally, and the treatment of others.
- Bassanio also fre இந்த இயாes money, however he does not love money itse can தே . அது charming and interesting friend despite his wastefulness.

#### Act 2, Scene o

#### **Active Learning Task**

- Credit should be given for any diary entry that is written from the viewpoint of ...
- Material could include: Jessica's inner thoughts and feelings just before and just goods, her thoughts about Launcelot, her feelings towards Lorenzo, her though leave the house, and other relevant material.
- The diary entry should be written as if it were by Jessica.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- It is arguable that Jessica's argument is convincing as people who are in love oft things in order to be together. This is how she tries to convince herself, and the towards her father is justified.
- However, it is arguable that such immoral behavion is acceptable, even be of blind lovers applies to Antonio and Bassan fine way that Antonio continuablind to Bassanio's faults with most grade.





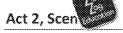
#### Act 2, Scene 7

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any answer that can be justified. Portia could be calm and collervous. The point here is for the student to engage with the character and the concept

#### **Debate Prompt**

- Morocco is concerned with the appearance of things; high not believe that so outside could be worth anything on the inside of procession with appearance of the second section with appearance of things; high procession with appearance of the second section with appearance of the second s
- However, it is also ar the she has learnt this behaviour and value system to lived as we do not e.



#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any relevant direction of this scene. The point here is to see h productions of the play can have dramatically different effects on an audience despite the

#### **Debate Prompt**

- It is acceptable for a modern audience to feel sorry for Shylock; he is cast out of faith, he is tricked out of his money and his justice, he is controlled by Christians his daughter. In this way, Jessica's actions are not justified; she might be in love according to the societal laws that also govern Portia's behaviour.
- However, Jessica can be seen to be justified in her actions when they are considerable father is unreasonable and she is in love.
- In the 21st century, we are probably on balance less likely to find the misfortune something that, unlike Shakespeare's original audiences, we are unfortunately of the Holocaust. Within such a context, modern audiences are more likely to be characters who are persecuted due to their falses.

#### Act 2, Scene 9

#### Active Learning Task 3

Credit shoul er siy relevant prop.

#### Active Learning Task 2

- Rhyme is often used in the play at the end of a speech to produce comic effect operations events.
- Here it has the effect of concluding the Prince's efforts to win the hand of Porti.

#### Act 3, Scene 1

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for all readings of the speech. The rhythm does indeed increase is

#### **Debate Prompt**

- Shylock is angry because Jessica has run away, she has stolen from him, he is up and he is generally angry with Antonio because of and he is generally angry with Antonio because of an indicate treatment of him.
   been wrecked as it allows him to have revent on the indicate that.
- Whether Shylock is justified in his a go area Jessica and his resentment of which you feel that Shylock is the conformal of this play rather than the villain. Eith

#### Extended Essage es

- Sala priment tells the audience that, despite the blood ties between Jess diffe. To each other.
- Shakespeare here is exploring the nature versus nurture debate, i.e. are our pergenetically before we are born or are we completely products of our environme different to each other despite sharing familial ties.
- However, there is also a hint here that they are not of the same blood, meaning also up for debate.



#### Act 3, Scene 2

#### **Active Learning Task**

- Music plays several important roles in the play. Here, it helps to focus the mon the tension as Bassanio picks a casket.
- Any ideas can be a part of the ideas wall. The point is to start talking about how member feel at that point in the play.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- Appearances can be deceptive but the company is have to be deceptive; it depends involved.
- Some people are have a large to be and other people can be very false. No



#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any relevant staging of this scene.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- It can be argued that it is always morally right to think of the many over the indiwhen it is economically secure.
- However, there are arguably exceptions to this concept, for example when deal
  justice. This presents a conflict with the needs of the state; how a state deals w
  state it is. For example, many Western countries allow individuals access to just

#### **Extended Essay Question**

- The Duke will not save Antonio as, if he did, it would undermine the justice syst
- The consequence of this would be catastrophic on the economically extremely produced with the consequence of this would be catastrophic on the economically extremely produced with the consequence of this would be catastrophic on the economical economi
- This shows us that justice in the plana. Six above such material consenses.

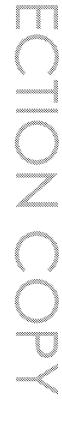


There are a great many deliberate puns in the play. The following list includes a selectio

- Antonio: 'Hie thee, gentle Jew' (act one, scene three) (172) a pun on gentle and throughout the play.
- Gratiano: 'For if I do, I'll mar the young clerk's pen' (act five scene one) (237) a puns are found throughout the play.
- There are a huge number of puns concerned with materialism and commercialism play. Credit should be given for any valid pun.

#### **Extended Essay Question**

- On the one hand, it does not undermine the main themes of the play, as Portia by simply lending a helping hand. The play's main theme could be seen to be the deception.
- However, it does undermine the main themes of the properties of the pro



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED



#### Act 3, Scene 5

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any relevant staging.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- The serious scenes and material are often punctuated and split up by comic cha
- Usually, a dramatic scene will be followed by a comic
- The effect of this is to retain the dramatic ten and in a dramatic scenes throughouse. Changes in mood mean that a comic scene; in this way the drama becomes heightened.

Act 4, Scene

Active Learn

Credit should given for any relevant staging ideas.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- Men in the play are often shown to be action heroes, likened to classical figures
- Women, as Portia's speech shows, are shown to be the centres of mercy and for who nurture and tend to the heroic men.
- However, the play questions these stereotypical roles as much as it presents the
  comparing himself to such overly heroic figures. Bassanio also shows us that m
  and have to be rescued by rich heiresses. Antonio is also shown to not always to
  Shylock show a darker side to his character.
- Portia plays the part of a traditional daughter who obeys her father's wishes yet
  challenges the patriarchal system when she pretends to be a lawyer. She also c
  and shows that she is more than a match for her new husband.
- Jessica defies traditional gender roles in her rejection of her father and of his au
- These challenges to gender relations show us that changes are was exploring a well as simply presenting them.

#### **Extended Essay Question**

- Yes the ending is it is the world of the play where Jews are considered save and Shand a certain degree of mercy; he is allowed to live.
- How figure the judge the play by modern standards, it is not at all just. Shy force convert. He is tricked.
- Even in Shakespeare's time, it is hinted at that this is not real justice; it is a type

#### Act 4, Scene 2

#### **Active Learning Task**

Any colours or textures should be given credit. Mood boards should be colourful with lophotos, magazine clippings, etc.

#### **Debate Prompt**

- It is supposed to be comic; they have been tricked by their wives, something the
  within Shakespeare's patriarchal society.
- However, it also hints at the possibility that the marriages will not last. If the rise loyalty and fidelity, it does not take the men long to be a second.

#### Act 5, Scene 1

#### **Active Learning Task**

Any relevant staging and it is a would be given credit.

#### Debate Pron

- The desarte here is about whether there are absolute values in the world, things beautiful, or whether things are only ever relative. For example, Portia is only be people; she has no intrinsic beauty in her own right. This could be debated eith concept, this debate has raged for hundreds if not thousands of years.
- It can be argued that some things are always absolute. For example, it is never
  has also been argued for many years.



#### **Major Character Analyses**

#### **Debate Prompt**

- It can be argued that Antonio is a virtuous character: he loves his friends, he is help those people that he cares about and he is generally a moral character.
- However, we are also told that he has verbally abused Shylock in the past and make he is unwilling to see through to the end. In this way, he cannot keep his word, the

#### **Extended Essay Question**

- Shylock can be seen to be the villain in the place in the morality tradition basis for this play, he is the traditional place in the stock character. He is not Christmoney and not love, he is a nice of a only for vengeance and revenge. He refuse trial. He is consumed by seed and revenge. In these ways, he is a villain.
- How the speare goes beyond the morality tradition in many of his plays, more that people have, and when they are vengeful or bitter, he examine this way, he is saying that no one is born evil or horrible; we are all victims of the live. Viewed like this, Shylock is a victim. He is abused by the Venetian citizens certain areas and many professions, he cannot own property and he is shunned then that he ends up bitter and full of hate; he is a product of the racism of his
- It is impossible to know for sure how original audiences would have responded argue that they would not have responded to his character with as much empaissful very much second-class citizens in the time in which this play was written; the this could have made people view them as sub-human and oddities. Faced with Antonio, it is reasonable to argue that most people would have sided with the hither evil bitter old Jew.

#### **Themes**

#### Debate Prompt 1

- Antonio is the perfect Christian: he is self-sacrificing, he is a fair merchant and he is moral and wire and he is a fair merchant.
- However, he is also abusive towards Shidrak and goes back on his word to him.

#### **Extended Essay Question 1**

- Loyalty is explored പ്രത്യാട്ട് several ways: between friends, between lovers
- Ant and description of the second of the seco
- Bass and Portia appear loyal to each other but the ring trick hints that perhappily as it appears to.
- Portia is loyal to the wishes of her father.
- Jessica is disloyal to her father.

#### **Active Learning Task**

Credit should be given for any relevant reimagining of the task.

#### **Extended Essay Question 2**

- True mercy is not delivered in the play as mercy is only shown to Antonio based only shown to Shylock because it is a way to convert him and take his money.
- Although mercy is shown, there are caveats. Therefore, it is not true mercy.
- Justice is not given to Shylock; he is denied his pound of flesh, his revenge on Arthur appearance of justice is given, the reality of things.

#### Debate Prompt 2

- The play is not anti-Semitic; the Jew chice the lease of because it was familiar, no reasons. Anti-Semitism as a complete of Jeournal was in the twenty-first century
- However, the property of ti-bemitic when judged by modern standards. Shylock is excelled and Sairy tricked into losing his money and converting.



#### Writer's Techniques

#### Active Learning Task 1

The scene opens with blank verse and finishes with prose and a rhyming couplet.

#### **Active Learning Task 2**

- The Act opens with Scene 1 set in a Venetian court. The Duke and Antonio ente Shylock enters; this already prejudices Shylock as he viscosity to the convenience.
- The structure of the scene follows the pattern in To a speech then short questioned by other characters audience.
- The tension builds the historian acture

#### Debate Pro

- In sc. ys, the structure of this play is very simple. There are five acts, each
- However, the fluidity of the locations as they interact and the gradual climatic by
  play that climaxes in the courtroom scene show that, under the surface, the structure complex.

#### Debate Prompt 1

- Heroic metaphors do strengthen the heroic appearance of certain characters as connections between the classical heroes and the characters themselves.
- However, most of the time it is so overly emphasised that the overall effect is c

#### Context

#### **Active Learning Task**

1558 - Queen Elizabeth I takes the throne.

1564 - Shakespeare born.

1564 - Marlowe born.

1567 - Nashe born.

1580 – Francis Drake returns to England afterioris balliplorations.

1580 - Montaigne's Essays published

1587 - Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I's orders.

1588 – Spanish pace

1589 – Marl 🛂 💸 ae 🚉 w of Malta published.

1593 – Marlo

1594 - Shakespeare's company The Lord Chamberlain's Men formed.

1596–99 – The Merchant of Venice published.

#### **Extended Essay Question**

- It is impossible to tell for certain whether Shakespeare intended his audiences to certain is that there were no Jews in England in the time in which he was writing highly likely that original audiences would have found the figure of Shylock as quite
- Our twenty-first-century eyes view Shylock quite differently due at least in part it twentieth century's horrific events of the Holocaust are still very much a part of Against such a backdrop, Shylock is more easily seen as a tragic victim of racial at
- There are also hints in the play that Shakespeare was asking his original audience treatment of Shylock was right or just. He includes several speeches that quest human as Christians. They deserve respect too. The second to which Shakespear treated equally will never be known; what is interesting is that, during a time whom, the play questions this view.



