

### Merchant of Venice: Sample Questions

How is the relationship between Antonio and Bassanio presented to an audience?

How is the theme of prejudice presented through different characters?

How is the theme of justice presented in the play?

How are the themes of love and hate presented in the play?

How important is the trial scene (Act 4, Scene 1) to the play as a whole?

---

(a) With reference to the ways Shakespeare presents Gratiano, show how far you agree that Gratiano is a loyal friend to Bassanio.

(b) Look again at Act III scene ii line 291 to the end of the scene. (The extract begins with Portia's words "Is it your dear friend that is thus in trouble?")

With reference to the ways Shakespeare presents Portia and Bassanio in the extract and elsewhere in the play show how far you agree that they are loyal to each other.

---

(a) Show how far you agree that Gratiano is a good friend to Bassanio.

In your answer you should consider the use of language and dramatic techniques in presenting:

☐ his behaviour in the courtroom;

☐ his behaviour in Belmont in Act V.

(b) Look again at Act III scene ii line 291 to the end of the scene. (The extract begins with Portia's words "Is it your dear friend that is thus in trouble?")

Show to what extent you would agree that Portia and Bassanio are loyal to each other.

In your answer you should consider:

☐ what they say in the extract;

- ☐ Shakespeare's use of language and dramatic techniques in the extract;
- ☐ what Portia and Bassanio say and do in the court scene.

How is the relationship between Antonio and Bassanio presented to an audience?

How is the theme of prejudice presented through different characters?

How is the theme of justice presented in the play?

How are the themes of love and hate presented in the play?

How important is the trial scene (Act 4, Scene 1) to the play as a whole?

---

(a) With reference to the ways Shakespeare presents Gratiano, show how far you agree that Gratiano is a loyal friend to Bassanio.

(b) Look again at Act III scene ii line 291 to the end of the scene. (The extract begins with Portia's words "Is it your dear friend that is thus in trouble?")

With reference to the ways Shakespeare presents Portia and Bassanio in the extract and elsewhere in the play show how far you agree that they are loyal to each other.

---

(a) Show how far you agree that Gratiano is a good friend to Bassanio.

In your answer you should consider the use of language and dramatic techniques in presenting:

- ☐ his behaviour in the courtroom;
- ☐ his behaviour in Belmont in Act V.

(b) Look again at Act III scene ii line 291 to the end of the scene. (The extract begins with Portia's words "Is it your dear friend that is thus in trouble?")

Show to what extent you would agree that Portia and Bassanio are loyal to each other.

In your answer you should consider:

0203 565 0539

[www.trefoiltutors.co.uk](http://www.trefoiltutors.co.uk)  
[office@trefoiltutors.co.uk](mailto:office@trefoiltutors.co.uk)



☐ what they say in the extract;

☐ Shakespeare's use of language and dramatic techniques in the extract;

☐ what Portia and Bassanio say and do in the court scene.