

# Contents

<b>Character map</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Tips for writing essays</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Essay 1:</b> 'Shakespeare uses striking imagery to underpin his characterisations.' How significant are the images of disease and corruption in <i>Hamlet</i> ?	19
<b>Essay 2:</b> 'Hamlet swears to the ghost of his father that "thy commandment all alone shall live/Within the book and volume of my brain".' How successful is Hamlet in keeping this promise?	23
<b>Essay 3:</b> 'In considering whether to take revenge against Claudius, Hamlet struggles not only with his morals, but also with his attitude towards life.' Discuss.	27
<b>Essay 4:</b> ' <i>Hamlet</i> reminds us that we must accept the inevitability of death.' Is this a valid view of the play?	31
<b>Essay 5:</b> "This bodes some strange eruption in our state." 'The characters' flawed values reflect Shakespeare's view on how societies descend into corruption.' Discuss.	35
<b>Essay 6:</b> "The purpose of playing ... is to hold ... the mirror up to nature." Does <i>Hamlet</i> support its protagonist's view?	39
<b>Essay 7:</b> ' <i>Hamlet</i> illustrates the difficulty of taking decisive action.' Do you agree?	43
<b>Essay 8:</b> 'Hamlet's thoughtful mind and sensitive conscience cause him to suffer greatly, but he makes too many others suffer for us to sympathise with him to any great degree.' Discuss.	47
<b>Essay 9:</b> 'Hamlet knows that he is prompted to seek revenge "by heaven and hell".' Why does he delay in seeking it?	51
<b>Essay 10:</b> "Though this be madness, yet there is method in't." What purpose does Hamlet's madness serve?	55
<b>Practice topics</b>	<b>59</b>







