

## Assignment-IV

Q1 Iago is a character in "Othello". He is a senior officer in the Venetian Army under the command of Othello. Iago is very popular among the characters in the play. He is valued for his loyalty. There is a consensus that he is very honest and straightforward, and all the main characters turn to him for help and advices.

He is charming, clever and funny. He lends a sympathetic ear to everyone as they pour out their problems to him and solicit his help.

What the people around him

don't know is that he is actually the cause of their problems. The more information they give him, the more ammunition they are supplying to be used against them.

Tago is a very modern character, and he has been diagnosed as a psychopath or sociopath by the critics. He is devoid of any conscience and any antipathy.

## Q2 Act-II, Scene-I

On a very dark night, Iago leads <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ reluctant Roderigo to where he can find Cassio. Iago confesses to the audience that, "Now, whether to kill Cassio or Cassio him, or each do kill the other."

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other, every way makes my gain". Roderigo attacks Cassio, but Cassio stabs him. Iago stabs Cassio in the leg from behind. Othello hears Cassio's yell and says that "Iago keeps his word." Thinking that Iago has killed Cassio, he continues on to kill Desdemona. Iago and Gratiato hear the yelling and decide to fetch help. Iago secretly finds the injured Roderigo and kills him. Bianca enters and is distraught at Cassio's injuries. Iago insinuates that she was to blame for the attack. Iago tells the audience that "This is the night that either makes me or fordoes me quite."

EXPOSITION



The play takes place in Venice. The M  
Othello, secretly marries a noblema  
Desdemona.

CLIMAX



Iago plants a handkerchief of Des  
room to make it appear that the two  
Othello finally believes Iago, and vo  
stop until he has his re

Q3 Esc  
Des  
wh

Desdemona is asleep on her bed. Othello tells her to pray and urges her to confess that he gave the handkerchief to Iago. She pleads for her life but gets suffocated. Emilia hears Desdemona calling out and finds her just as she dies. Emilia is shocked at her husband's involvement and yells for help. Othello realises the truth, and Iago runs away after stabbing Emilia. Lodovico, Montano and Cassio come in with Iago as prisoners. Othello stabs himself, kisses Desdemona and dies.

Q3 Examine the role of Desdemona. - mind. :-

Desdemona is a tragic character whose treatment reinforces the unfair

ness of the society. Desdemona is entirely innocent, excited about life and eager for adventure. She is seen as a tool to be used by various men in her life. By the time Desdemona is unjustly murdered by the man she loves her earlier bravery and excitement for life gets disappeared. It would be easy to see her as a symbol for how an unjust society mistreats the innocent. Seeing Desdemona only a symbol of tragedy would precisely reinforce the objectifying attitude with which the men around Desdemona regard her.

Q4  
Desdemona's character traits include loyalty, bravery, compass-

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and naivete. Desdemona is highly obedient. She does what others ask of her but always prioritises her husband. She becomes increasingly isolated and confused and dies <sup>when</sup> begging her husband to believe that she loves him. She longed for adventure and wept for the sufferings of others which made her ill-fit for the cruel and rigid society of ~~Venetian~~ Venice.

Q4 Write down a detailed -- Othello.

Othello is a combination of greatness and weakness. He is a general in the Venetian Army and has won this post by his excellence in the field of war. He has courage, intelligence, the skill of command and the respect of

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His troops. Othello is an outsider who is intelligent and confident in military matters but is socially insecure. He leads an intense life, swinging between triumph and dread. Othello's achievement is not so much that he survived this uprooting life, but that he survived it in such a spectacularly successful manner. He ended up in being one of the most powerful men in the Venetian Army. He is also triumphant in war and in love, the hero at his greatest moment. Such triumph, in a tragedy, cannot last.

Othello has grown up in exile, slavery, danger and

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despair. Now, as a professional soldier, he lives amongst the charges on the battlefield, but he needs it in his inner being due to the presence of love. Othello cannot stand uncertainty, it drives him to destroy his sanity.

Q5 Write down the detailed ...-wise:  
Act-III, Scene-I

The morning after the fight, Cassio asks Emilia to help him speak to Desdemona, and Iago offers further support. Emilia tells Cassio that Desdemona is already speaking up for Othello. Cassio asks Emilia to help him speak with Desdemona alone.

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### Act-III, Scene-II

Othello, Iago and a gentleman walk together. Othello gives Iago some letters to send to the Venetian Senate and tells him to meet him on the fortifications. Iago exits, and Othello goes to tour the fortifications.

### Act-III, Scene-III

Desdemona reassures Cassio that she will continue to speak to Othello on his behalf. Iago makes sure that Othello sees the end of their conversation and notices Cassio leaving Desdemona. Iago begins to sow the seeds of suspicion in Othello's mind and suggests

that something is going on between Cassio and Desdemona. Iago leaves Othello convinced of his wife's infidelity. Iago pretends that he has heard Cassio talking in his sleep about the affair. Othello asks Iago to kill Cassio and, to kill Desdemona himself. Plans

### Act-III, Scene-IV

Desdemona is upset about losing her handkerchief, but Emilia pretends that she knows nothing about it. Othello comes in acting strangely and asks to borrow the handkerchief. Iago returns with Cassio and, hearing that Othello was upset, he leaves to find him. Bianca, who is in love with Cassio arrives. Cassio gives her the handkerchief and asks to copy the design.