***Antony******and Cleopatra***

**Task 1 – Groupwork**

Look at the following introductions.

Key Question – **How effective is each introduction at addressing the set question and establishing an argument?**

* Identify the strengths in each introduction
* Identify the areas of weakness in each introduction
* Mark each introduction against AO1, AO2 and AO3
* Decide which band you would place the introduction in – remember you will need to be able to justify your decision in whole class feedback

**Example 1**

**“Shakespeare presents Antony as a man desperate to establish his own identity and his honour as a Roman hero.” Discuss the presentation of Antony in the light of this statement. [80]**

Shakespeare presents Antony as ‘a man desperate to establish his own identity and honour as a Roman hero’. Antony may first appear to be of Roman heroic nature, his honour and duties create an ultimate sense of anti-climax and bathos as he never seems to quite live up to the Roman expectations held against him. Shakespeare cleverly gives the audience different aspects in which to view Antony from: a friend that betrays (according to Enobarbus’ perspective), a lover who sets duties aside for Cleopatra, a father figure that does nothing but disappoint (according to Caesar’s perspective). This essay will explore the differences between honour, heroism, fame and identity. Shakespeare’s presentation of Antony is many things, Antony is simply not presented as just one thing, yet Antony cannot be all these things at once, this will also be explored in this essay.

**Example 2**

**Explore how Shakespeare presents both personal and political loyalty in Antony and Cleopatra. [80]**

It is without a doubt that loyalty is a key and driving theme throughout Antony and Cleopatra. It can be argued that political loyalty is the most important contextually. However, in Shakespeare’s play personal loyalty takes authority. But, that being said, there are, moments in the play where political loyalty takes precedence over personal loyalty, such as the military background of Antony and Enobarbus, And Pompey and Menas.

**Task 2 – Individual**

Re-write one of the introductions aiming to make it a Band 5 in introduction. Make sure you address the set question and establish what your key arguments will be.

***King Lear***

**Task 1 – Groupwork**

Look at the following introductions.

Key Question – **How effective is each introduction at addressing the set question and establishing an argument?**

* Identify the strengths in each introduction
* Identify the areas of weakness in each introduction
* Mark each introduction against AO1, AO2 and AO3
* Decide which band you would place the introduction in – remember you will need to be able to justify your decision in whole class feedback

**Example 1**

**“Shakespeare presents female power and determination in King Lear as a destructive force.” How far do you agree with this interpretation of King Lear? [80]**

At the time *King Lear* was first performed England was ruled by King James 1, formerly James Vi of Scotland and despite the popularity of his predecessor Elizabeth 1 still subscribed to a belief in the chain of being, a medieval concept ingrained in many despite the renaissance. In the chain of being, which also bolstered James 1’s belief in the divine right of kings, women were placed firmly below men, above only beasts and plant life. Given that James’ beliefs were tied to this order and that the play was performed in his court it is not hard to see why spurious attitudes to women and dysphemic insults run throughout the play, especially since these would likely play well with audiences drawn from the wider society of the time.

**Example 2**

**“The saddest thing about betrayal is that it never comes from your enemies.” Examine Shakespeare’s presentation of betrayal in *King Lear* in the light of this statement. [80]**

The theme of betrayal is presented as a central and pivotal part of *King Lear*. To each and every one of the protagonists does betrayal occur, and it is even reflected in the sub-plots of the antagonists. In relation to the statement ‘The saddest thing about betrayal is that it never comes from your enemies, the plot of *King Lear*’s narrative is rife with treachery and betrayal between friends and family alike.

**Task 2 – Individual**

Re-write one of the introductions aiming to make it a Band 5 in introduction. Make sure you address the set question and establish what your key arguments will be.

***Much Ado About Nothing***

**Task 1 – Groupwork**

Look at the following introductions.

Key Question – **How effective is each introduction at addressing the set question and establishing an argument?**

* Identify the strengths in each introduction
* Identify the areas of weakness in each introduction
* Mark each introduction against AO1, AO2 and AO3
* Decide which band you would place the introduction in – remember you will need to be able to justify your decision in whole class feedback

**Example 1**

**Discuss how Shakespeare uses the relationship between Hero and Claudio to present social and political issues in Much Ado About Nothing. [80]**

The relationship between Hero and Claudio presents many social and political issues. Three of the main issues in the play is the social structure of patriarchy, social status and political hierarchy.

**Example 2**

**“For the audience, the entertainment is in the joy of trickery.” In the light of this statement, explore Shakespeare’s presentation of appearance and reality in Much Ado About Nothing. [80]**

Appearance and reality are key themes in the play and provide a comic element for the audience. Dogberry and the Watch confuse the audience and have little understanding of what is going on. Many characters appear to be one thing but are in fact another. For example, Claudio appears to love Hero but is in fact only interested in her social position. Beatrice pretends to be a man-hater but she is secretly in love with Benedick. Therefore, what appears to be reality is not.

**Task 2 – Individual**

Re-write one of the introductions aiming to make it a Band 5 in introduction. Make sure you address the set question and establish what your key arguments will be.

***Othello***

**Task 1 – Groupwork**

Look at the following introductions.

Key Question – **How effective is each introduction at addressing the set question and establishing an argument?**

* Identify the strengths in each introduction
* Identify the areas of weakness in each introduction
* Mark each introduction against AO1, AO2 and AO3
* Decide which band you would place the introduction in – remember you will need to be able to justify your decision in whole class feedback

**Example 1**

**“I am not what I am.” Explore Shakespeare’s presentation of status and identity in *Othello*. [80]**

In the play *Othello*. Shakespeare presents the ideas of status and identity as one in the same or closely linked as both impact each other throughout the play. This is not always for the better either as when the characters develop, their status and identity change. Reputation also plays a part in shaping identity and status as to some character, such as Cassio, reputation is everything to one’s status and identity.

**Example 2**

**“Far from the conventional Elizabethan woman.” Consider Shakespeare’s presentation of Emilia in the light of this statement. [80]**

The character of Emilia is given a distinctive and assertive female voice by Shakespeare. Emilia is far from the conventional Elizabethan woman as she disagrees with societal norms of women (passivity and obedience). However, this is only explored in the domestic space of the play where otherwise Emilia takes on a performative role to please her husband, Iago. It is not until the end of the play when Emilia experiences a conflict between societal norms and morality that Emilia is truly shown to be far from the conventional Elizabethan women.

**Task 2 – Individual**

Re-write one of the introductions aiming to make it a Band 5 in introduction. Make sure you address the set question and establish what your key arguments will be.

***The Tempest***

***The Tempest***

**Task 1 – Groupwork**

Look at the following introductions.

Key Question – **How effective is each introduction at addressing the set question and establishing an argument?**

* Identify the strengths in each introduction
* Identify the areas of weakness in each introduction
* Mark each introduction against AO1, AO2 and AO3
* Decide which band you would place the introduction in – remember you will need to be able to justify your decision in whole class feedback

**Example 1**

**“A conventional, passive heroine.” Discuss Shakespeare’s presentation of Miranda in the light of this statement. [80]**

Shakespeare presents Miranda as a ‘conventional passive heroine’ in *The Tempest* as she has grown up in isolation and takes a passive approach to situations, in addition to coming off as naïve.

**Example 2**

**“An instrument of manipulation, intimidation and control in society.” In the light of this statement, explore Shakespeare’s presentation of the use of magic in *The Tempest.* [80]**

To begin with the use of magic is presented as ‘An instrument of manipulation, intimidation and control in society’ as it is mirrored in the play. Throughout the play, we see how magic can be used to control, intimidate and manipulate certain characters by the protagonist, Prospero. However, the social view of magic, which was looked down upon, can be challenged in the play by Shakespeare as he also presents magic as something that can help regain morality and forgiveness by characters.

**Task 2 – Individual**

Re-write one of the introductions aiming to make it a Band 5 in introduction. Make sure you address the set question and establish what your key arguments will be.