1) What are the four main motifs of the play?

A)
B)
C)
D)

2) Describe the society of Salem.

3) What human traits were important to the Puritans and what was considered evil?

ACT 1

1) When Reverend Parris asks Susanna what the doctor said, what did she say?

2) Why do both Abigail and Parris warn Susanna to “go directly home and speak nothing of unnatural causes?”

3) When Abigail admits to dancing the previous night, what is her explanation for Betty fainting?

4) What is Parris’ main concern?
5) Who does Reverend Samuel Parris see dancing with his daughter Betty in the woods?

6) What explanation does Abigail give when her uncle asks why Tituba was waving her arms over the fire and screeching gibberish?

7) Why did the girls dance in the woods?

8) What does the forest symbolize?

9) What does Parris mean when he asks Abigail if her name is “not entirely white”?

10) Why does Abigail say she was dismissed by the Proctors and why does she seem to hate Goody Proctor?

11) Why did Mrs. Putnam contact Tituba?
12) What could be some of the motivations for Putnam wanting Parris to announce that there is witchcraft in the town?

13) What did Abigail do in the forest that she wants to hide?

14) What threat does Abigail make to the other girls if they tell what Abigail did?

15) We know that John and Abigail had an affair in the past. How does each feel about it now?

16) Why would Abigail have drunk “a charm to kill John Proctor’s wife”?

17) How do Abigail’s past actions with John Proctor go against Puritan values?

18) What could Abby be symbolic of?
19) What do Mr. and Mrs. Putnam say is a sign that Betty has practiced witchcraft?

20) What is the rumor going around about Betty that the Putnams mentioned earlier and now Giles Corey mentions?

21) What does Rebecca Nurse seem to think is going on with these “sick” girls?

22) What is the function of Rebecca Nurse in the play?

23) How does Mrs. Putnam feel about Rebecca Nurse?

24) How does John Proctor feel about Reverend Parris and his ministering style?

25) Why do you think that Parris so concerned with obtaining the deed to his home?

26) What are some of Parris' other concerns or complaints that he reveals?
27) What animosities between Proctor and Putnam are revealed in this scene?

28) There are several arguments and resentments between the citizens of Salem that are seen at this point. Why would the author break away from the discussion of witchcraft to show the resentments between the different citizens?

29) What is Hale's past experience with witchcraft?

30) What does Hale warn the others of? (Hint: He says he will leave Salem if this happens).

31) In the stage directions it is revealed that the others feel resentful towards Rebecca's note of moral superiority. What leads the people to feel this way?

32) What does Giles Corey reveal to Reverend Hale about his wife?

33) Even though Reverend Hale first says that there may not be witchcraft in Salem, what has he seen that could point to witchcraft?
34) Why does Abigail accuse Tituba of witchery?

35) Why would Abigail have chosen to accuse Tituba instead of one of the other girls?

36) What specific things does Abigail say that Tituba makes her do?

37) Although Tituba is shocked when Abigail accuses her of witchcraft, why does she eventually admit to it and accuse others of being with the devil?

38) How do Putnam and Hale question Tituba and how does that affect her testimony?

39) Why would Tituba claim that the Devil tells her to kill Parris?

40) Why would Abigail suddenly admit that she “danced with the Devil”? What might motivate Abigail, Tituba, and Betty to name various people that they “saw with the Devil?”
1) Describe Elizabeth and John Proctor’s relationship from their dialogue at the beginning of this act.

2) What does it mean when Elizabeth says that Mary Warren “is a mouse no more”?

3) How many people does Elizabeth say are accused of witchcraft at this point?

4) According to Elizabeth, how is Abigail looked at by the townspeople? Do you think that the townspeople respect or fear Abigail?

5) What does Elizabeth want John to do?

6) What does John admit to that shatters Elizabeth’s trust of him? Why does this anger Elizabeth? Why is John angered by this?

7) What news does Mary bring to the Proctors regarding the trial?

8) Why might Goody Osburn hang but not Sarah Good?
9) What kind of “evidence” does Mary say “proves” that Sarah Good is a witch?

10) How does Mary describe what she does in court?

11) How does Mary react when John threatens to whip her?

12) As John is about to whip Mary Warren, John stops short. What was it she told him?

13) Mary now has power over the Proctors. How does she demonstrate this?

14) Why does Elizabeth think that Abigail mentioned her name in court?

15) What does Elizabeth want John to do now? What does she hope to accomplish?

16) Why does Reverend Hale have reason to feel a bit guilty at this point?
17) Why has Rev. Hale come to their house?

18) How do the Proctors react when Hale mentions that he had just been to Rebecca Nurse’s house and although she hadn’t been formally accused of witchcraft, her name was brought up?

19) What does Proctor say about Parris that gives the audience further information about Parris’ obsession with material items?

20) What happens when John is asked to recite the Ten Commandments? How is this ironic?

21) What three things about the Proctors disturb Hale?

22) As proof of witchcraft, Rev. Hale points out that a number of people have already confessed to being witches. What is Proctor’s response?

23) Hale sounds shocked when John tells him that Abigail is lying about the witchcraft and that she had told John this information. He also sounds shocked when Elizabeth tells him to question Abigail about the Gospel and not herself. Why does Hale sound so shocked to hear this?
24) What does Francis Nurse mean when he says that his wife Rebecca is the “very brick and mortar of the church”?

25) What is Rebecca Nurse charged with? Who charged her and why?

26) What is Martha Corey charged with?

27) Who stuck the pin in Abigail’s stomach and why?

28) What does Proctor mean when he says “Why do you never wonder if Parris be innocent, or Abigail? Is the accuser always holy now? Were they born this morning as clean as God’s fingers?”

29) Proctor accuses Hale of being a Pontius Pilate. How is Hale similar to this figure in history? (Hint: take a look at the explanation given at the bottom of p. 204).

30) What reason does Hale give for the outbreak of witchery in Salem? Why do Hale’s words have an effect on Proctor?
31) What will Abby do if Proctor goes into court to denounce her, according to Mary Warren?

32) What is Proctor’s response?

33) Why is Mary afraid to say anything in court?

Quotes from Act 2
Directions: Be sure to know who said the following quotes

34) “Theology, sir, is a fortress; no crack in a fortress may be accounted small.”

35) “Elizabeth, your justice would freeze beer!”

36) “The promise that a stallion gives a mare I gave that girl!”

37) “If you think that I am one [a witch], then I say there are none.”

38) “Man, remember, until an hour before the Devil fell, God thought him beautiful in Heaven.”

39) “…and still an everlasting funeral marches round your heart.”

40) “I saved her life today!”

41) “She has an arrow in you yet, John Proctor, and you know it well!”

42) “Is the accuser always holy now?”

43) “Proctor, let you open with me now, for I have a rumor that troubles me. It’s said you hold no belief that there may even be witches in the world. Is that true, sir?”

44) “I must tell you now, sir, I will be gone every day now. I am amazed you do not see what weighty work we do.”

45) “Good. Then her saintliness is done with. We will slide together into our pit; you will tell the court what you know.”
**ACT 3**

1) Why does Giles say that he “broke charity” with his wife?

2) Why is Mary Warren’s testimony critical for Hale, Proctor, Nurse, and Corey?

3) What does Mary Warren tell Governor Danforth?

4) Why does Danforth question the truth of John Proctor’s evidence?

5) Why does Proctor say that his wife must be pregnant if she has said so?

6) Why does Proctor not drop the charges against the court when he hears that his wife is pregnant and will be spared for at least a year?

7) Francis, Giles, and Proctor got ninety-one people to sign a petition. What is this petition?

8) Why does Francis say that he has “brought trouble on these people”?
9) What is the charge that Giles Corey makes against Putnam?

10) What is Giles Corey’s proof for his charge, and why will he not supply the proof to the court?

11) What does Danforth say to Mary about the fact that she has lied?

12) Summarize what Danforth tells the girls before he allows any of them to speak.

13) Why does Danforth find it hard to believe that Abigail could be pretending and, in effect, be a murderer?

14) How does Parris defend Abigail?

15) What are some of Parris’s motives for going against Proctor and still believing in the witchcraft stories?
16) Why does Parris lie about seeing one of the girls naked on the night of the dancing in the woods?

17) Why does the court ask Mary to faint?

18) Why can’t Mary faint when asked by the court?

19) How does Mary’s inability to faint hurt John’s case against Abigail?

20) Why do you think Mary means when she says that she only thought she saw spirits, but she really didn’t?

21) In calling Abigail a whore, what charge and punishment does Proctor open himself to? Why has he made this confession?

22) What test is Elizabeth given, and how does she fail it? Why?
23) How has Hale’s opinion of the Proctors changed since Act 2?

24) What finally causes Mary Warren to agree with Abigail?

25) What happens to Proctor at the end of Act 3?

26) How has the mood of the play changed from Act 1 to Act 3?

27) How has Hale changed from Act 1 to Act 3?

28) Describe how the theme of deception is relevant in this act through the following characters:
   Danforth –

   Proctor –

   Elizabeth –
29) How could the actions of John and Elizabeth towards the end of Act 3 mark a turning point in their marriage?

**Quotes from Act 3**

**Directions:** Be sure to know who said the following quotes

1) “Your Excellency, I only said she were readin’ books, sir, and they come and take her out of my house for -.”

2) “I can only say, sir, that I never found any of them naked, and this man is -”

3) “Excellency, I have signed seventy-two death warrants; I am a minister of the Lord, and I dare not take a life without there be a proof so immaculate no slightest qualm of conscience may doubt it.”

4) “I – I cannot tell how, but I did. I – I heard the other girls screaming, and you, Your Honor, you seemed to believe them, and I – It were only sport in the beginning, sir, but then the whole world cried spirits, spirits, and I – I promise you, Mr. Danforth, I only thought I saw them but I did not.”

5) “Excellency, it is a natural lie to tell; I beg you, stop now before another is condemned! I may shut my conscience to it no more – private vengeance is working through this testimony!”

6) “I will not give you no name. I mentioned my wife’s name once and I’ll burn in hell long enough for that. I stand mute.”

7) “You are putting Heaven down and raising up a whore!”

8) “A man may think God sleeps, but God sees everything, I know it now. I beg you, sir, I beg you – see her what she is…I have made a bell of my honor! I have rung the doom of my good name – you will believe me, Mr. Danforth!”

9) “Oh Mary, this is a black art to change your shape. No, I cannot, I cannot stop my mouth; it’s God’s work I do.”

10)“I cannot say he is an honest man; I know him little. But in all justice, sir, a claim so weighty cannot be argued by a farmer. In God’s name, sir, stop here; send him home and let him come again with a lawyer - ”
ACT 4

1) Act One takes place in the spring, and Act Four takes place months later in the fall. Why might this be symbolic of what is happening or going to happen in the play?

2) Describe the conversation between Sarah Good, Tituba, and Herrick. What are they talking about? How could the discussion be ironic?

3) Why do you think that Danforth seems suspicious of Hale when Herrick tells him that Hale has returned?

4) Discuss Cheever’s description of the town. What does this imply about Salem?

5) What is Hale doing in the jail? Why is Parris happy about this?

6) Why is Parris upset?

7) What is happening in the neighboring town of Andover? Why is Parris concerned about these events?
8) According to Parris, why did Abigail and Mercy Lewis flee Salem? Why do you think that Abigail and Mercy left?

9) Why does Parris really want the hangings to stop or be postponed?

10) What is ironic about Danforth’s reasoning behind refusing to pardon the remaining seven people or postpone their hangings?

11) Why is it important for the court to get one of the accused "respectable citizens," such as John Proctor or Rebecca Nurse to confess?

12) Why is Rev. Hale telling the accused to lie? What is ironic about this?

13) What is it that the court desire of Elizabeth Proctor? What does the court desire of Elizabeth Proctor? What are some of the things that Hale says to Elizabeth to encourage this?
14) Describe Elizabeth’s internal conflict.

15) How did Giles Corey die? Why?

16) Why does Proctor call himself a fraud?

17) What reason does Elizabeth give for being partially responsible for Proctor’s lechery? How does Proctor respond to Elizabeth? How has his behavior changed since Act 2?

18) What does Elizabeth advise John to do?

19) Why is Rebecca Nurse brought in to witness Proctor’s confession? How does she react?

20) After Proctor confesses to witchcraft, why does Danforth ask him to give names?
21) Why won’t Proctor take the easy road and just confess the names of people who are going to hang anyway?

22) Proctor refuses to tell on his friends and then rips up his own confession after signing the paper. What do these two things tell you about his character?

23) How does Proctor resolve both his inner and outer conflicts at the end of the play?

24) After Parris and Hale plead with Elizabeth one last time, she says, “He have his goodness now. God forbid I take it from him”?

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Quotes from Act 4

**Directions:** Be sure to know who said the following quotes

1) “There be no Hell in Barbados. Devil, him be pleasureman in Barbados, him be singin’s and dancin’ in Barbados.

2) “Excellency, I think they be aboard a ship. My daughter tells me how she heard them speaking of ships last week, and tonight I discover my – my strongbox is broke into.”

3) “I will not receive a single plea for pardon or postponement. Them that will not confess will hang. Twelve are already executed; the names of these seven are given out, and the village expects to see them die this morning. Postponement now speaks a floundering on my part; reprieve or pardon must cast doubt upon the guilt of them that died till now.”

4) “John, it come to naught that I should forgive you, if you’ll not forgive yourself. It is not my soul, John, it is yours. Only be sure of this, for I know it now: Whatever you will do, it is a good man does it.”

5) “Woman, plead with him! Woman! It is pride, it is vanity. Be his helper! – What profit him to bleed? Shall the dust praise him? Shall the worms declare his truth? Go to him, take his shame away!”
6) “I cannot mount the gibbet like a saint. It is a fraud. I am not that man. My honesty is broke, Elizabeth; I am no good man. Nothing’s spoiled by giving them this lie that were not rotten long before.”

7) “I tell you what is said here, sir. Andover have thrown out the court, they say, and will have no part of witchcraft. There be a faction here, feeding on that news, and I tell you true, sir, I fear there will be riot here.”

8) “No, he comin’ for me. I goin’ home! Take me home, Devil! Take me home!”

9) “Would you give them such a lie? Say it. Would you ever give them this? You would not; if tongs of fire were singeing you you would not! It is evil. Good, then – it is evil, and I do it!”

10) “Come, then, sign your testimony. Give it to him. Come, man, sign it. You will not sign it? Do you sport with me? You will sign your name or it is no confession, Mister!”

- Be sure to study your Puritan power point notes and the literature that we have read in Unit 1