**English 10 Honors Name:**

***Othello* Study Guide #3: Act III**

Scenes 1-3:

1. What does Cassio pay the clown to do for him? Does it work?

2. Emilia gives Cassio an update on Othello’s attitude toward him. What is Othello’s attitude? What has Desdemona been doing for Cassio? Why does Cassio still want to see her?

3. What will Desdemona do to try to get Cassio his position back? How does this work in Iago’s favor?

4. In Othello and Desdemona’s exchange after Cassio leaves Desdemona, how would you characterize each of the characters’ attitudes and manners toward each other?

5. After Desdemona leaves, how does Iago carefully make Othello doubt Cassio while acting like he is being loyal to Cassio?

6. What does Iago say about his own jealousy and suspicious nature to Othello? Do you think this self-assessment is accurate, or just an act? Why?

7. What does Iago say about reputation (specifically his own) in his discussion with Othello? How does this differ from his discussion with Cassio about reputation?

8. What does Iago say about Venetian women? How does this connect to his previously stated attitudes on women?

9. What are some of the ways that Iago tries to make Othello question Desdemona’s fidelity?

10. Based on Othello’s first soliloquy of the play, what shortcomings does he see in himself? What is the “curse of marriage?” How secure does he seem in his relationship?

11. Why does Emilia take Desdemona’s handkerchief for Iago, even when he seems to treat her poorly? What is Iago’s plan for the handkerchief?

12. How is Othello’s demeanor changed when he returns to speak to Iago? What does he demand of Iago? What does he accuse Iago of doing?

13. Othello demands proof from Iago. What is wrong with this style of “investigation?” How does Iago use this flawed approach to his advantage? What “proof” does Iago give him?

14. Othello and Iago kneel and take an oath to act. What do they intend to do? How is Iago still making subtle suggestions to Othello?

Scene 4:

1. Why doesn’t Desdemona think Othello is capable of jealousy?

2. What point is Othello trying to make about Desdemona via her hand? To what is he comparing her hand?

3. According to Othello, how is witchcraft tied into the handkerchief? Why might he have failed to mention this to her before?

4. What does Emilia say about men? What about her own life might cause her to think this?

5. What does Desdemona tell Cassio in regard to his desire to have his job back? How has her attitude changed on the matter? How does Cassio take the news?

6. How does Desdemona explain Othello’s unusual behavior? How does Emilia?

7. Why is Bianca upset with Cassio? How does he explain his “actions” (or lack there of)?

8. What does Cassio give to Bianca and for what purpose? How did he get this item in the first place?