

**Hamlet – Act II**  
**Study Guide**  
**Ms. Kamrass**

**I. Pre-reading questions:**

- After learning of his father's murder, what do you expect Hamlet to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Based on Act I, what is your opinion of Hamlet's mother, Queen Gertrude?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What do you think will happen between Hamlet and Ophelia?

**II. Questions**

Directions: Answer each question in complete sentences. Also be sure to include specific evidence to prove your answers are correct. *If there is a quote, be sure to explain its significance.*

**↗ scene i**

1. What does Polonius hire Reynaldo to do? What do you think of him as a father?

2. Why is Ophelia upset?

**↗ ↗ scene ii** *This is a long one!*

3. Why have Claudius and Gertrude asked Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to come to Elsinore?

4. What do you think of the king and queen's action from question #3? Does it show concern, or something else?

**Q!** 5. Why does Gertrude think that Hamlet is acting insane?

**Q!** 6. What does Polonius plan to do with Ophelia to help the king and queen?

7. Describe the change in Hamlet's reaction after seeing Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in Elsinore.

**Q!** 8. How does Hamlet plan to use the players (actors)?

**Act II wrap-up questions:**

9. Name the characters near Hamlet when he acts mad (crazy). Conversely, who is near when he acts "normal" during this act?

"crazy"	"normal"

10. Where else is there spying in the world? Do you think it is ethically correct? Explain.  
(definition of "ethic" from m-w.com: the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation. *Kamrass note: other academic study of the term sometimes replaces "moral" with societal.*)