Study guide for Volpone, by Ben Jonson
Act I, Scene I

Cell #1- Introduction

Quote: “Volpone, childless, rich, feigns sick, despairs,
Offers his estate to hopes several heirs...”

Summary: The story takes place in Venice, Italy. It starts out in Volpone’s house (whose name means ‘fox’ in Italian.) Volpone is childless, so he plans a con with his servant Mosca (whose name means the fly.) The con is Volpone pretending to be near death ill and tricking three citizens into showering him with gifts, in hopes that one of them will be his sole heir.

Comprehension Question: What does Volpone’s name mean in Italian?

Ethical Question: Is it right for Volpone to con more people when he already has a fortune.

Predictive Question: Will Mosca pull through with him?

Literary Question: In the quote, “Riches the dumb God, that giv’st all men tongues;” which literary device is being used?
a) personification
b) allusion
c) satire
d) simile
Quote: VOLPONE: Good morning to the day; and next, my gold!—
Open the shrine, that I may see my saint.

Summary: Volpone commands Mosca to open the curtains so that he can see his treasure. Volpone hands him gold and talks about the beauty of his gold.

Comprehension Question: What did Volpone want Mosca to do?

Ethical Question: By letting Mosca touch the gold, is Volpone taunting him?

Predictive Question: Do you think Mosca would steal the gold?

Literary Question: In the quote above, which literary device is being used when he calls his personification his saint?
   a) pejorative
   b) connotation
   c) frame
   d) personification
Cell #3- Truth in the Treasure

Quote: VOLPONE: True, my beloved Mosca. Yet I glory
More in the cunning purchase of my wealth,

Summary: Volpone is discussing the way he earned his fortune. He didn’t use any business techniques or trade; he earned it all through cons.

Comprehension Question: What method did Volpone use to earn his wealth?

Ethical Question: Is Mosca to nice to serve Volpone?

Predictive Question: Will this be the con to end all cons? Will this scheme undo him?

Literary Question: In the quote, “I turn no monies in the public bank,” which of the seven deadly sins does Volpone seem to be guilty of?
   a) gluttony
   b) wrath
   c) envy
   d) sloth
   e) avarice
   f) lust
   g) pride
Cell #4- The 3 Jesters

Quote: VOLPONE: Call forth my dwarf, my eunuch, and my fool,

Summary: Volpone tells Mosca to call Nano (the dwarf), Castrone (the eunuch) and Androgyno. They are his jesters/entertainers.

Comprehension Question: Who was the dwarf?

Ethical Question: Is Volpone treating the three jesters like objects?

Predictive Question: Will the three jesters find out about the con?

Literary Question: In the quote above, which literary device is being used?
   a) sarcasm
   b) realism
   c) amelioration
   d) pejoration
Quote: VOLPONE: Must be my heir: and this makes men observe me:  
This draws new clients daily to my house,  
Women and men of every sex and age,

Summary: The townspeople know Volpone has no family, and that he’s in “bad health.” Everyday different people come to shower him with gifts, hoping to claim a piece of his fortune when he dies.

Comprehension Question: Who wants his wealth?

Ethical Question: Who seems more corrupted, Volpone or the townspeople?

Predictive Question: Will any of the townspeople succeed?

Literary Question: We, the audience know the townspeople are being fooled, but they themselves don’t know about the con. What literary device is this an example of?

a) dramatis personae  
b) hyperbole  
c) metaphor  
d) dramatic irony
Cell #6- The Play

Quote: NANO: Fellow eunuch, as behooves us, with all our wit and art,

Summary: The three jesters put on a play to entertain Volpone. The play tells the story of how Pythagoras’s soul was passed onto Apollo to Euphorbus and then eventually into their friend Androgyno. Volpone likes the play so Mosca takes all the credit for it.

Comprehension Question: Whose body did Androgyno’s soul come from?

Ethical Question: Was it right for Mosca to take all the credit for the play?

Predictive Question: Will Mosca always try to please Volpone?

Literary Question: The jesters putting on a play in this play is an example of which literary device?
   a) astesmus (cleverly twisting another’s words to make a joke)
   b) symbol
   c) frame (story within a story)
   d) amplification
Cell #7- Singing a Song

Quote: NANO AND CASTRONE [SING]: Fools, they are the only nation
Worth men’s envy or admiration:

Summary: Nano and Castrone sing a song about the glories of jesters,
such as themselves. They explain that jesters are important and are
the life of the party.

Comprehension Question: Who sing a song?

Ethical Question: Will a noble appreciate the song?

Predictive Question: Will they entertain in the future?

Literary Question: The fact that a fool could be the “chiefest guest,” is
an example of which literary device?
- a) denotation
- b) irony
- c) onomotopeia
- d) analogy
Cell #8- Knock! Knock!

Quote: VOLPONE: Who’s that? Away!
    [Exeunt Nano and Castrone.]
Look, Mosca. Fool, begone!
    [Exit Androgyno.]
MOSCA: ’Tis signior Voltore, the advocate;
    I know him by his knock.

Summary: The entertainment is disturbed by a knock at the door. Mosca confirms that it’s Voltore (whose name means ‘vulture’.) He is one of the men trying to get a hold of the fortune. Volpone makes the jesters go away.

Comprehension Question: Who knocked at the door?

Ethical Question: Why doesn’t Volpone apologize to the jesters for the disturbance?

Predictive Question: What has Voltore brought with him?

Associative Question: In today’s shows, the cliché of a knock at the door signifies...
a) more trouble
b) more cupcakes
c) more pies
d) more Volpones
Quote: MOSCA: A piece of plate, sir.
VOLPONE:. Of what bigness?
MOSCA: Huge,
Massy, and antique, with your name inscribed,
And arms engraven.

Summary: Mosca fetches Volpone’s sick dress and goes to greet Voltore. Mosca then returns to tell Volpone that Voltore has brought him a gift of a huge gold plate with his name and arms engraved on it.

Comprehension Question: What did Voltore bring?

Ethical Question: Does Mosca seem to like being juggled around?

Predictive Question: Do you think Voltore, being a lawyer, would suspect anything?

Literary Question: In the quote, “So you can hide his two ambitious ears,” which literary device is being used?
a) personification
b) allegory
c) climax
d) paradox
Cell #10- Fake Cough

Quote: MOSCA: Stay, sir; your ointment for your eyes.

  VOLPONE: He comes; I hear him—Uh! [coughing.] uh! uh! uh! O—

Summary: Mosca tells Volpone that he’s going to bring Voltore to meet him. Volpone then pretends to be ill and starts coughing. He also supposedly has tremors, aches, coughs, asthma, and vomit.

Comprehension Question: What’s one sickness Volpone has?

Associative Question: These days, why do people fake injuries?

Predictive Question: Do you think Karma will get to Volpone?

Ethical Question: What does Mosca’s sneaking around say about his character?
Cel1 #11- Conversation

Quote: MOSCA: Sir, signior Voltore is come this morning
To visit you. VOLPONE: I thank him.

MOSCA: And hath brought
   A piece of antique plate, bought of St. Mark,
   With which he here presents you.

Summary: Mosca brings Voltore into Volpone’s room. Volpone thanks Voltore for the gold plate and the two talk about Volpone’s condition. Volpone says he’s about to die.

Comprehension Question: Who has come to visit Volpone?

Ethical Question: Did Voltore have to bring a plate?

Predictive Question: What do you think is in store for Voltore?

Literary Question: In the quote, “I feel me going; Uh! Uh! Uh! Uh!” which literary device is being used?

   a) oxymoron
   b) ambiguity
   c) amplification
   d) metaphor
Quote: MOSCA: He ever liked your course, sir; that first took him. I oft have heard him say, how he admired Men of your large profession, that could speak

Summary: Mosca lies and assures Voltore that he is the sole heir because Volpone told him that he liked the work of lawyers.

Comprehension Question: What profession is Volpone fond of?

Ethical Question: Does Mosca feel any guilt?

Predictive Question: Will Voltore ever find out he’s being conned?

Literary Question: In the quote, “And [re-] return; [could] make knots, and undo them;” which literary device is being used?

a) parallelism
b) paradox
c) personification
d) pejorative
Quote: VOLPONE: [springing up.] Excellent Mosca! Come hither, let me kiss thee.

MOSCA: Keep you still, sir. Here is Corbaccio.

VOLPONE: Set the plate away: The vulture’s gone, and the old raven’s come!

Summary: Voltore leaves and Volpone kisses Mosca for pulling it off. Mosca tells Volpone to stay put because another man whose name means ‘raven’ is coming.

Comprehension Question: What does Volpone give Mosca?

Ethical Question: Does Mosca deserve praise for what he did?

Predictive Question: Does the Raven know anything?

Literary Question: In the quote, “The vulture’s gone, and the old raven’s come!” which literary device is being used?

a) simile
b) metaphor
c) sangfroid
d) symbol
e) aptronym
f) b and e

g) a and c
Corbaccio, an elderly man, which Mosca himself thinks that Corbaccio is in much woe offers to give Volpone a drug, but Mosca refuses out of fear that the drug may be C

1. What do envious people, according to Volpone, call Mosca?
   (A) An idiot
   (B) A parasite
   (C) A rogue
   (D) An insect

2. Was it right for Mosca to answer for Volpone in taking the drug or not?

3. Do you think Volpone would die if he did take the drug?
4. When Corbaccio offered the drug to Volpone, referring to medieval times was thi
Mosca assures him that Volpone is, in fact, getting worse and is nearly dead. This makes Volpone even sicker than he is and that he is certain that he would outlive Volpone.

1. Why is Corbaccio so happy once Mosca told him the news about Volpone’s health?

(A) He will outlive Volpone and makes him feel 20 years younger

(B) He is just happy

(C) Smiling about the way Mosca is talking

(D) He finds the news funny
2. Was Volpone really sick and do you think it is right for Corbaccio to be happy about it?
3. Do you think if Mosca didn’t tell anyone about Volpone’s health would Corbaccio still be happy?
4. Was happy for someone’s death right?
Act 1 scene 4 part 3

Mosca says that when Volpone then writes his own will, his sense of gratitude will cease, and Volpone mocks him afterward mercilessly for trying to inherit money from a sick, dying man.

1. Why did Volpone mock Corbaccio?

(A) Wanted to make fun of him

(B) Of trying to inherit money from a sick, dying man, while he is as sick as Volpone

(C) He was so bored

(D) He was sick and decided that will make him feel better
2. Was it right for Corbaccio to take the money of Volpone?

3. If Volpone did write a heir for Corbaccio, what will happen?

4. According to medieval times, was a heir a proper way to give away the dead per
Corvino brings a pearl as his gift, who remarks that Volpone has been saying his name, unable to recognize anyone and is unable to say anything else. Corvino hands over the pearl, write up a will, interpreting Volpone’s cries of “Corvino” as indicating the Fox’s desire.

1. What is probably the reason that Volpone is calling out Corvino's name constantly?
   (A) Wants Corvino to be his heir
   (B) Call out because he felt like it
   (C) It helped get better
   (D) He was crazy

2. Did you think it was right for Mosca to tell Corvino that Volpone had been mentioning his name constantly.
3. Will Corvino even know if Mosca is telling the truth about the constantly naming?

4. Was it popular in the medieval times for a person to predict the future?
Corvino thanks Mosca for his help. Corvino asks Mosca if Volpone could see and he will suffocate him and he is dead by hurling abuse in his ear. Then Mosca tells Corvino to suffocate Volpone with violence. Corvino leaves, and pledges to share everything with Mosca when he inherits Volpone's fortune. He won’t share is his wife.

1. Why did Mosca notes to himself that, "the only thing he won’t share will be his wife"?

(A) He wants Celia (Corvino's wife) to be his
(B) Because he knows that Corvino loves her so much he won't let anyone share it
(C) She is very ugly for the public to know that she is being share with two guys
(D) Corvino is selfish

2. Did you think Mosca it was right to tell Corvino to suffocate Volpone?
3. If the decision for Corvino was to suffocate Volpone, what do you think will happen?

4. Was it popular in the medieval times to kill someone for their fortune?
Act 1 scene 5 part 3

Lady Politic Would-be arrives after Corvino leaves. Volpone hears her and tells Mosca to turn her away at Volpone's door. Volpone also explains that she is not beautiful enough to be promiscuous and unlike Corvino's wife, she is better than you. Also you are not beautiful enough to be promiscuous.

1. Why did Mosca turn Lady Politic Would-be away at Volpone's door?
   (A) Volpone didn't want to see her
   (B) Mosca didn't like her attitude
   (C) She left by herself
   (D) She forgot her keys at home

2. Was it right for Mosca to say she wasn't beautiful enough right in her face?

3. If she didn't go away, do you think she would be let in the house?
4. In medieval times, was comparing other people's beautifulness common?
Later on Volpone nevertheless is resolved to see her, so he decides to go in disguise introduction to the beautiful Celia.

1. In order for Volpone to see Celia, what did he do?

(A) He disguised himself for his first introduction

(B) He ran there

(C) He climbed a tree just to get a glimpse of her

(D) He didn't do anything and waited for Celia to come to him

2. Was it right for Volpone to see Celia?

3. If Volpone didn't disguise himself, would he have gone?
4. In the medieval times, was seeing someone's wife a crime?
Act 2 scene 1 part 1

Sir Politic Would-be and Peregrine strolls together. Sir Politic tells him that his wife wants to come along.

1. Why does Sir Politic's wife want to come along?
   (A) To pick up some of the local culture
   (B) She is lonely
   (C) She wants to see who Peregrine is
   (D) She doesn't want to see Mosca

2. Do you agree to the fact that Sir Politic and Peregrine are strolling together?

3. If Lady Politic came along, what do you think would happen?
4. In medieval times did people go everywhere to pick up any sort of culture?
Act 2 scene 1 part 2

Peregrine have decided that Sir politic will believe anything anyone tells him, and p
about Mas’ Stone, the supposed drunken illiterate and convinced that he is a dang

1. What did Peregrine say about Sir Politic?
   (A) He will believe anything anyone tells him
   (B) He is crazy
   (C) He is mentally ill
   (D) He is married to a Celia

2. Do you think Peregrine was right when he told the lies to Sir Politic?

3. If Peregrine told him all the lies he could come up with, what do you think would
4. In the medieval days, was being dishonest a form of trick?
Act 2 scene 1 part 3

Stone has secret messages smuggled out of the Netherlands in cabbages according living near to China, “Mameluchi”

1. What else did Peregrine tell Sir Politic?
   (A) That a group of baboons spy living near to China name Mameluchi
   (B) That he is very handsome and could get Celia to go with him
   (C) His head looks like a cabbage
   (D) He is lucky to have a wife

2. Did Peregrine tell a lie again and was that lie right or wrong according to Peregrine?

3. Sir Politic believed every word that came out of Peregrine, what do yoi think would
4. In the medieval days, was there such thing as a group of spy baboons living nea
Peregrine sarcastically in his mind says that he was fortunate to run into Sir Politic, since he only read books about Italy, he would need some advice from him on how to negotiate his way through Venetian life. And what a fool would agree to everything I say even when I interrupted him.

1. What kind of advice did Peregrine need from Sir Politic?
   (A) Advice on how to trick him
   (B) Advice on how to negotiate his way through Venetian life
   (C) Advice on how to ignore everyone that is talking to him
   (D) Advice on how to raise a cat

2. Did you think it was right for Peregrine to ask Sir Politic for advice?

3. If Peregrine didn't get his advice, what would happen to him?
4. During medieval days was asking for advice common?
-Celia: Before your honour?
- Corvino: Honour? tut, a breath; There is no such thing, in nature: a mere term Invented to awe fools. What is my gold The worse, for touching, clothes for being look’d on? Why, this is no more. An old, decrepit wretch, That has no sense, no sinew; takes his meat With others’ fingers; only knows to gape, When you do scald his gums; a voice; a shadow; And, what can this man hurt you?
-Celia: Lord! what spirit Is this hath enter’d him?

Summary: Corvino says that “honour” does not exist in reality and if someone was to lose their “honour,” it would not harm anyone.

Comprehension: What is Corvino trying to say about “honour”?

Ethical: Based on this passage, do you think Corvino has much to care about in his life?

Predictive: Does Corvino care about others or does he care about himself later in the story?

Literary: In the quote above, how does it compare wretch to an old person?
   a) An old person has no “honour.”
b) An old person is unhappy and therefore he is a wretch, wretch means a miserable, unfortunate, or unhappy person.
c) An old happy person, wretch means outside he looks miserable but inside he is happy about it.
d) An old “fixed” guy, wretch means one that’s repaired or refixed.
-Mosca: Sir, Signior Corvino, here, is come to see you.  
-Volpone: Oh!  
- Mosca: And hearing of the consultation had, So lately, for your health, is come to offer, Or rather, Sir, to prostitute –.

Summary: Volpone is sick and Corvino comes to help Volpone get better.

Comprehension: Who has come to help Volpone get better?

Ethical: Does Corvino care much about Volpone or is Corvino just using Volpone?

Predictive: Do you think Corvino would get a reward for helping Volpone get better?

Literary: How is the meaning of the word “prostitute” going to help Volpone get better?  
  a) Prostitute means one who solicits and accepts payment for sex acts. The sex will help Volpone get better.  
  b) Prostitute means someone who promise or affirm with formal dignity. Volpone has many requests.  
  c) Prostitute will help Volpone get better by getting him more land.  
  d) A prostitute is someone that will change one person’s feeling to make him feel better.
-Volpone: Alas, I am past, already! Pray you, thank him For his good care, and promptness. But for that, It is a vain labour, e’en to fight, ‘gainst heaven;
Applying fire to a stone: (uh, uh, uh, uh,) Making a dead leaf grow again. I take
His wishes gently, though; and you may tell him, What I have done for him: marry, my state is hopeless. Will him, to pray for me; and to use his fortune, With reverence, when he comes to it.

Summary: Volpone declares that he has past the point of no return but thanks Corvino, Volpone says that Corvino will be his heir.

Comprehension: What is Corvino’s reward?

Ethical: Is Volpone really that nice and all by making Corvino his heir?

Predictive: Will Corvino take advantage of this and become what Volpone is right now?

Literary: How does Volpone compare himself to the result of applying fire to stone?
a) A fire can’t spread once it reaches the rocks just as Volpone will die once it reaches its limits.
b) Fire cannot spread through the rocks just as Volpone’s disease can’t spread and infect others.
c) Fire:Volpone’s disease:: Stone:cure
d) Fire burns out easily just as Volpone’s immune system.
-Celia: Sir, kill me, rather: I will take down poison, Eat burning coals, do any thing. –
-Corvino: Be damn'd! Heart, I’ll drag thee hence, home, by the hair; Cry thee a strumpet, through the streets; rip up Thy mouth, unto thine ears; and slit thy nose, Like a raw rotchet -- Do not tempt me; come, Yield, I am loth – Death! I will buy some slave, Whom I will kill, and bind thee to him, alive; And at my window, hang you forth: devising Some monstrous crime, which I, in capital letters, Will eat into thy flesh, with aquafortis, And burning corsives, on this stubborn breast. 
Now, by the blood, thou hast incensed, I’ll do it!

Summary: Celia begs to not sleep with Volpone but Corvino threatens her by saying he will drag through the street and shout out that she is a whore if she does not sleep with Volpone.

Comprehension: What would Celia rather do that sleep with Volpone?

Ethical: Is Corvino using Celia to get what he wants? How does he show it?

Predictive: What do you think will happen in the chamber where Volpone and Celia are alone?
Literary: What does strumpet mean?
   a) Women
   b) Rapist
   c) A woman prostitute.
   d) Disrespectful person
- Volpone: Why droops my Celia? Thou hast, in place of a base husband, found
A worthy lover: use thy fortune well, With secrecy, and pleasure. See, behold,
What thou art Queen of; not in expectation, As I feed others: but possess'd, and crown'd.
See, here, a rope of pearl; and each, more orient Then that the brave Egyptian Queen caroused: Dissolve, and drink them. See, a Carbuncle, May put out both the eyes of our St Mark; A Diamond, would have bought Lollia Paulina, When she came in like star-light, hid with jewels, That were the spoils of Provinces; take these, And wear, and lose them: Yet, remains an Ear-ring To purchase them again, and this whole State. A Gem, but worth a private patrimony, Is nothing: we will eat such at a meal. The heads of parrots, tongues of nightingales, The brains of peacocks, and of estriches, Shall be our food: and, could we get the phoenix, Though Nature lost her kind, she were our dish.

Summary: Volpone gives this long speech about what would happen and what Celia would get if she were to sleep with him, marry him and become his lover.

Comprehension: What would Celia get if she sleep and marry Volpone?

Ethical: With all the things Volpone can get for one person, do you think he is a king?

Predictive: What do you think would happen if Celia were to marry Volpone?
Literary: When Volpone says “. See, a Carbuncle, May put out both the eyes of our St Mark; A Diamond, would have bought Lollia Paulina, When she came in like star-light, hid with jewels,” what is Volpone trying to show when he uses the word “carbuncle”?
   a) He is trying to show diamond fever and how much diamond he has.
   b) He is trying to show how much a diamond it worth.
   c) He is trying to show his love for diamonds.
   d) He is trying to show Celia the love for diamonds she has within her.
-Celia: If you have ears, that will be pierc'd -- or eyes That can be open'd -- a heart that may be touch'd -- Or any part that yet sounds man about you -- If you have touch of holy Saints -- or Heaven -- Do me the grace, to let me 'scape -- if not, Be bountiful, and kill me. You do know, I am a creature, hither ill betray'd, By one, whose shame I would forget it were: If you will deign me neither of these graces, Yet feed your wrath, Sir, rather then your lust, (It is a vice, comes nearer manliness,) And punish that unhappy crime of nature, Which you miscall my beauty -- Flay my face, Or poison it with ointments, for seducing Your blood to this rebellion. Rub these hands, With what may cause an eating leprosy, E'en to my bones, and marrow: Any thing, That may disfavour me, save in my honour -- And I will kneel to you, pray for you, pay down A thousand hourly vows, Sir, for your health; Report, and think you virtuous –

-Volpone: Think me cold, Frosen, and impotent, and so report me? That I had Nestor's hernia, thou wouldst think. I do degenerate, and abuse my Nation, To play with opportunity thus long: I should have done the act, and then have parley'd. Yield, or I will force thee.

-Celia: O! just God!

Summary: Celia refuses to sleep with Volpone and refuses his gifts and rewards. Volpone then says that he is not sick and it was all just an act to get Celia to sleep with him. He then takes her by force and Celia then screams.
Comprehension: Is Volpone sick?

Ethical: Would Volpone do whatever it takes to get what he wants even though it could the result can be bad as much as losing the crown?

Associative: Would people today do whatever it takes to get what they want? Give one example (excluding crimes).

Predictive: Is someone going to come and rescue Celia from Volpone or is Volpone going to succeed in what he planned on?
Cell 7: Bonario’s Rescue

-Come, I'm Bonario
here to rescue you, let's
run!

-Bonario: Forbear, foul ravisher, libidinous swine! Free the forced lady, or thou diest, impostor. But that I am loth to snatch thy punishment Out of the hand of justice, thou shouldst, yet, Be made the timely sacrifice of vengeance, Before this Altar, and this dross, thy idol. Lady, let’s quit the place, it is the den Of villany; fear nought you have a guard:
And he, ere long, shall meet his just reward.
Bonario and Celia exuent
-Volpone: Fall on me, roof, and bury me in ruin, Become my graue, that wert my shelter. O! I am unmask'd, unspirited, undone, Betray'd to beggary, to infamy --

Summary: Bonario jumps out from behind his hiding place and rescues Celia, Volpone’s con was then exposed and Bonario and Celia got away.

Comprehension: Who rescues Celia?

Ethical: Base on this passage, is Bonario a sneaky person?

Associative: Do you sneak around to find stuff you are unclear about? Why?

Predictive: Will Volpone get mad and blame Corvino or Mosca?
-Mosca: Where shall I run, most wretched shame of men, To beat out my unlucky brains?
-Volpone: Here, here. What? dost thou bleed?
-Mosca: O, that his well-driv'n sword Had been so courteous to have cleft me down, Unto the navel; ere I lived to see My life, my hopes, my spirits, my Patron, all Thus desperately engaged, by my error!
-Volpone: Woe on thy fortune!
-Mosca: And my follies, Sir.
-Volpone: Thou hast made me miserable.

Summary: Mosca enters, bleeding from a sword-wound that Bonario has given him on his way out. Volpone is concerned by the injury, Mosca then blames himself for the disaster of Celia’s escape and Bonario’s discovery of Volpone’s trick, Volpone then agrees.

Comprehension: Whose fault was it?

Ethical: How did Bonario ended up in Volpone’s chamber? Was it his sneakiness?

Associative: Would you stab someone on the way out? Would you do it for the fun of it?
Predictive: How would this affect the relations between Mosca and Volpone later in the story?
ACT II SCENE 5

QUOTES
CORV: Death of mine, honour, with th fool! A juggling, tooth-drawing, prating mountebank! And at a publick window!?you would be dam?d, are you did this, you whore!
CEL: Good sir, have patience
CORV: what couldst thou propose less to thyself, than in this heat of wrath and stung into thee, with as many stabs, as thou wert gaze?d upon with goatish eyes?

Questions
1. is it moral for corvin o to get the way he did towards Celia because of the handkerchief? If yes why?
2. what would have happened, if she did not throw the handkerchief to Scoto?
3. what does this mean, death of mine honour, with th fool! A juggling, tooth- drownin prating mountebank and at a public window!
4. what situation can you relate this event that may take place in ones home?
QUOTES
CORV: And, now I think on’t, I will keep thee backwards;
Thy lodging shall be backwards; thy walks backwards;
Thy prospect, all be backwards; and no pleasure
That thou shalt know but backwards: nay, since you force my
honest nature, know its your own?.

Questions
1. why does tell celia “thy lodging shall be backwards thy walks
   backwards....”
2. is it right for him to be angry with celia, after she told him she
   never goes out.
3. what do you predict if celia did not obey Corvin o
SUMMARY OF ACT II SCENE 5
Corvino, enters dragging his sword in his hand, berates Celia for tossing her handkerchief to Scoto Mantua. He feels that she has been unfaithful to him and was publicly humiliated. Celia begs not to be jealous, and that she doesn’t complain of hardly leaving the house, even to go to church. Corvino says that she will not leave the house, nor look out the window, and will do everything backwards, dress, talk, and walk backwards, and if she fails to obey, he will expose her in public, as an example of a woman without virtue.

QUOTES
CORV: My Mosca, welcome! I guess your news
MOS: I fear you cannot sir
CORV: isn’t not his death?
MOS: rather the contrary
CORV: not his recovery?
MOS: yes sir
CORV: I am cursed I am bewitched, my crosses meet to vex me. How? How? How?
MOS: why sir, with Scoto’s oil?

Questions
1. how would Corvino react if Mosca did tell him Volpone died.
2. do you think it’s moral for someone to tell a lie like needing to sleep with a woman to recover, in order to satisfy their needs.
3. what kind of state was Corvine in when he found out about Volpone’s recovery.
4. when Corvin o finds out Volpone’s recovery, he says Scot’s ingredients “are a sheep’s gall, a roasted bitch’s marrow, some few sod earwigs pounded caterpillars, a little capons grease, and fasting spittle; I know them to a dram”…what does Corvin o think about Scoto’s oil
QUOTES
MOS: At extreme fees, the college of physicians consulting on him, how they might restore him;?? But some young woman must be straight sought out, lusty, and full of juice, to sleep by him.
CORV: Death to my hopes, this is my villainous fortune! Best to hire some common courtesan
MOS: ?but they are all so subtle, full of art- and age again dotting and flexible?? no no it must be one that has no tricks sir, some simple thing, a creature made unto it some wench you may command. Have you no kinswoman?
Questions
1. mosca did not refuse the idea of a prostitute, why might it create problems
2. what does “and now I think ont I will keep thee, thy lodging shall be backwards, thy walks backwards,”....
3. is this the right way to tell Corvin o that he is referring to his wife.

QUOTES
MOS: one o? the doctors offer?d there his daughter.
CORV: his daughter! ?? she shall do?t : ?tis done. Slight if this doctor, who is not engaged, unless ?t be for his counsel, which is nothing, offer his daughter, what should I, that am so deeply in? I will prevent him: Wretch! Covetous wretch!-- Mosca, I have determined.
MOS: How, sir?
CORV: We?ll make all sure. The part you wot of, shall be mine own wife, mosca.
Questions
1. what does this mean “ slight this dotor who is not engaged unless be for his counsel which is nothing offer his daughter..no shall be mine own wife”
2. if mosca did not tell corvin o about the doctor offer what other way would he tell corvin o in order to lure him into offering his wife.
3. is it right idea to tell him that others had offer there daughter
4. can you relate this to a country that woman do not have much freedom

SUMMARY OF ACT II SCENE 6
Mosca enters with news for Corvino. Corvino thought Mosca brought him news of volpone?s death, however finds out that he has recovered from Scoto Mantua?s oil. Mosca tells him he is in charged by the doctors order, to find a woman to sleep with Volpone, to further aid his recovery. Corvino is frustrated and suggest Mosca a courtesan (a prostitute), but Mosca tells him that they are too experienced, and they might trick both of them out of any inheritance. Mosca tells him it should be a woman that?s simple and that Corvino can command, and that one of the doctors offer his daughter. Surprise by the new of the doctor?s offer, Corvino decides Celia will sleep with Volpone. Mosca ensures Corvino that he will be named heir.
CORV: what blubbery? Come, dry those tears. I think thou thought'st me in earnest; Ha! By this light I talk'd so but to try thee:
methinks the lightness of the occasion should have confirm'd thee. Come, I am not jealous?.faith I am not, nor never was, it is a poor unprofitable humour.

Questions
1. what situation can you relate this about that may take place in ones home
2. what would have happened if corvin o did not offer his wife
3. is it moral for corvin o to offer his wife. In order to get what he wants. If not what ways will it be moral
4. what does this mean “ faith I am not I, nor never was, it is a poor unprofitable humour.
CORV: Come kiss me. Go, and make thee ready, straight. In all thy best attire, thy choicest jewels, put them all on, and with them, thy best looks: we are invited to a solemn feast, at old Volpone’s, where it shall appear how far I am free from jealousy or fear.

Questions
1. what does “make thee ready,…in all best attire thy choicest jewels, put all on, and with them thy best looks, we are invited at old volpone, where it shall appear how far I am free from jealousy or fear.
2. do you think celia will go with corvine plan..if so why?
3. is it moral to tell his wife that he will show her he is not jealou at volpones without her knowing what she will do.

SUMMARY OF ACT II SCENE 7
After the conversation with Corvino and Mosca, Corvino finds Celia crying. He tells her that he is not jealous and never was. He tells her to out her best things on, and that she will find out just how much he is not jealous at Volpones house.
Quote: “I fear, I shall begin to grow in love with my dear self, and my most prosperous parts, they do so spring, and burgeon; I can feel a whimsy in my blood: I know not how success hath made me wanton. I could skip out of my skin, now, like a subtle snake, I am so limber.” - Mosca

Summary: Mosca explains his overall concern regarding his growing self-adoring attitude and how he is getting better at what he does with the words “I am so limber.”

Questions

Comprehension: What is the meaning of *limber*?
A) Wood  
B) Flexible or bending  
C) Body part  
D) Limbo

Predictive: What would be the outcome if Mosca changed his attitude to helping Volpone with his con game?

Associative: Do con artists that live during the 19th century have the same attitude as Mosca in his current time when they con?
Ethical: Is it right for Mosca to feel the way he does in this little soliloquy during this scene?
Act III Scene 1 (continued) Cell 2

Quote: This is the creature had the art born with him; Toils not to learn it, but doth practise it out of most excellent nature: and such sparks are the true parasites, others but their zanies. –Mosca

Summary: This quote further explains his conclusion that young men like him are the true “parasites” or people that use other people for personal gain and other people just try to mimic what he does.

Questions

Comprehension: Why is Mosca so pessimistic by characterizing the world as “True Parasites, other but their zanies”?

Predictive: What would happen if Mosca started to become one of the “Zanies”? How would this kind of action influence the outcome of his life?

Vocabulary: What does Parasite mean in this sentence: “and such sparks are the true parasites.”
A) An organism that causes mutations and creates a being that is genetically altered to serve the purpose of Gravemind.
B) An organism that feeds off another, usually bigger organism
C) Someone who uses someone else for personal gain
D) A bug/plant pokemon

Vocabulary: What does sparks mean in the quote?
A) Something set off after two stones brush each other
B) A band
C) A basketball team
D) Young gentlemen who have a high etiquette of doing things
Act III Scene 1
Cell 3

Quote: Bon. Nay, pray thee, know thy way, and leave me: I would be loth to interchange discourse With such a mate as thou art.
Mos. Courteous sir, Scorn not my poverty.
Bon. Not I, by heaven; But thou shalt give me leave to hate thy baseness.

Summary: This part means that Bonario is just somewhat hating Mosca for his status as a con artist and parasite. He doesn’t like him.

Questions
Vocabulary: What does baseness mean?
A) Having or showing a contemptible, mean-spirited, or selfish lack of human decency
B) Being very basic in organizing books or other useless items
C) Having or showing an alkaline substance used to make bases
D) The act of being a base, as first or second

Ethical: Why is it that Bonario puts down Mosca? Is it because of an action? Was this action committed by Mosca good or bad if he did commit one?

Comprehension: But thou shalt give me leave to hate thy baseness.
A) You must give me permission to hate your selfish attitude
B) You should let me leave to hate your kindness
C) You should shut up your mouth and doors to your house
D) Run before I get mad, because I’m an angry guy

Predictive: What would be the outcome if Bonario were nice to Mosca and tried to keep him from doing what he does?
Act III Scene 1
Cell 4

Quote: Bon. This tale hath lost thee much of the late trust
Thou hadst with me; it is impossible:
I know not how to lend it any thought,
My father should be so unnatural.

Summary: Bonario is talking to Mosca and gives his reaction to what he said. His total reaction is that he doesn’t trust him anymore and he doesn’t also understand his father’s actions.

Questions:
Associative: Is it still common to have a relationship like Bonario and Corbaccio of the Father--son connection as it is in the time during the industrial revolution that started in England?

Vocabulary: What does it mean to be unnatural as used in the quote above?
A) To be not a natural, or moron
B) To be natural and free in all things
C) To be grown with hormones instead of circuits and wires
D) To act in a odd pattern or different from usual past actions

Comprehension: “I know not how to lend it any thought, My father should be so unnatural.” Means-
A) I don’t know how to give it a thought, my father is so smart
B) I don’t know how to give it a thought, my father is so weird
C) I don’t know how to give it a thought, my father is very out of pattern
Predictive: What is the outcome of such a speech if his father Corbaccio hears it?
Act III scene 2

Quote: Nano: Dwarf, fool, and eunuch, well met here we be. A question it were now, whether of us three, being all the known delicates of a rich man, in pleasing him, claim the precedency can?
Castrone: I claim for myself
Androgyno: And so doth the fool

Summary: Nano, Castrone, and Androgyno are entertaining themselves by seeing who should be the head of them. Nano calls them small, unwise, and unmasculine but are actually he is referring to the meaning of their names.

Questions
Vocabulary: Which one is mostly likely a dwarf?
A) Nano
B) Castrone
C) Androgyno
D) Legolas

Predictive: What would happen if the 3 plotted to go against the Rich man which is Volpone?

Ethical: Why do they call each other by the literal meaning of their names? Is it because they are brought up that way?

Associative: Do names like these appear today? If they do, give an example.
Act III Scene 3
Cell 6

Quote: Mos. Sir, here conceal’d, [shews him a closet.] you may hear all.
But, pray you,
Have patience, sir; [knocking within.]—the same’s your father knocks:
I am compell’d to leave you.

Summary: This small scene involves Mosca and Bonario and Mosca just told him to hide while he goes outside.

Questions
Associative: Was it common for something like this to happen were a servant helps someone of higher class? Is it still somewhat apparent in our culture today for such a bridge of social and financial status to occur?

Predictive: What would change how Bonario reacts if Mosca did not leave?

Ethical: Was it a good choice for Mosca to allow Bonario to hear what was about to happen?

Spelling: What is the real way to spell “compell’d”
A) Compellled
B) Compelled
C) Compell d
D) D) Good as is
Volpone- Act 3 Scene 4 Cell 1

Quote- Corv: Lady P: "I thank you good sir. 'Pray you signify Unto your patron, I am here.--This band Shews not my neck enough.--I trouble you sir.

This quote is when Lady politic s complaining that her clothes dont show off her neck...

Summary- Lady Politic Would-be enters into an anteroom with Nano and asks him to tell Volpone she has arrived. She fusses over her own appearance, noting her dress does not show her neck enough but that she is still dressed well. She berates Volpone's servant women for not dressing appropriately and not making themselves up in an appropriate way.

1) Why does Lady Politic complain her clothes don’t show off her neck?
2) How is decadent were Lady Politic's morals?
3) What literary device is used in, "Assassinate our Knowledge."
4) What literary device is used in, (Volpone talking to Lady Politic) "the storm comes towards me"?
Quote- Corv: "Troubled with a noise, I cannot sleep; I dreamt That a strange fury enter'd, now, my house, and, with the dreadful tempest of her breath, Did cleave my roof asunder."

This is a description of Volpone’s dream

Summary-Finally, Lady Politic begins to speak to Volpone. Volpone informs her that he had a strange dream the previous night, that a "strange fury" entered his house and tore his roof off with her voice. She ignores the obvious reference to herself and begins a (very one-sided) conversation, advising Volpone on what medicines he should take to cure his bad dream, discussing the various Italian poets and their relative strengths and weaknesses, before giving a brief lecture on the value of philosophy when dealing with mental disturbances. By the end of the scene, Volpone is begging to be rescued.

Vocabulary- asunder:

a) Glued together with slime
b) Pushed down the stairs

c) Thrown out a window
   e) Into separate parts or pieces

1) What happened in Volpone's Dream?
2) How does Lady Politic react to Volpone's dream?
3) What literary device is used in, "Another flood of words! a very torrent!"?
4) What literary device is used in, "There was but one sole man in all the world, with whom e'er could sympathise"?
Volpone- Act 3 Scene 5 Cell 3

Quote- Volp: "My good angel save me"- "Some power, some fate, some fortune rescue me!"

These are Volpone's prayers for someone to save him from Lady Politic.

Summary- Volpone's prayers to be rescued from Lady Politic are answered when Mosca finally returns. Volpone demands that he find a way to get rid of Lady Politic.

Vocabulary- Cope-man:
   a) one who deals with the difficult
   b) A chapman; a dealer; a merchant
   c) a killer, an assassin
      e) a pitcher or bowler

1) Does Volpone like Lady Politic's company?
2) How is Volpone rescued?
3) What if Volpone wasn't rescued by Mosca?
4) What literary device is used in, "The bells, in time of pestilence, ne'er made like noise"?
Volpone- Act 3 Scene 5 Cell 4

Quote- Mos: "I had forgot to tell you, I saw your knight, Where you would little think it.--"

Mosca tells Lady Politic her husband is cheating on her and to go fetch him before he runs away.

Summary- Mosca quickly decides to tell Lady Politic that he recently saw Sir Politic rowing upon the waters of Venice in a gondola with a courtesan. Sir Politic was actually conversing with Peregrine, the young English traveler, but Lady Politic believes Mosca completely and runs off to search for her husband with the dwarf. Mosca then informs Volpone that Corbaccio is about to arrive, so as to make Volpone his heir; Volpone thanks Mosca for his help and lies down to rest.

Vocabulary- recitation: The act of reciting memorized materials in a public performance

1) How does Mosca get rid of Lady Politic?
2) Who is Corbaccio going to make his heir?
3) What literary device is used in, "steamed like a bath with her thick breath"
4) What literary device is used in, "For, lightly, they, that use themselves most license,"?
Quote- Mos: "Sir, your father hath sent word, It will be a half an hour ere he come; And therefore, if you please walk the while Into that gallery-- at the upper end,"

This is where Mosca tells Bonario to hide from his father.

Summary- Mosca and Bonario enter. Mosca tells Bonario to hide so that he can watch his father disinherit his son and make Volpone his heir. Bonario agrees but, after Mosca leaves, says that he still can't believe that what Mosca says is true.

Vocabulary-Dram: A small amount; a bit

1) What does Mosca inform Bonario about?
2) Why must Bonario go away?
3) Why doesn't Corbaccio want to make Bonario his heir?
4) What literary device is used in, "shoot through the air as nimbly as a star"?
Dialog, Cor: Nay, now, there is no starting back, and therefore, Resolve upon it: I have so decreed. It must be done. Nor would I have so decreed. It must be done. Nor would I move’t, afore, because I would avoid all shifts and tricks, that might deny me. 
Cel: Sir let me beseech you, affect not these strange trials; if you doubt my chastity, why, lock me up forever: Make me the heir of darkness. Let me live, where I may please your fears, if not your trust. Cor: Believe it, I have no such humor. 

Enter Mosca and Corvino, Celia following. Mosca tells Bonario that Corbaccio will soon arrive. Celia begs not to be forced to sleep with Volpone. She asks that she be locked up instead since she thinks Corvino doubts her chastity. Corvino tells her that his decision is final, and that he does not want any protest in terms of "honour"; "honour", according to Corvino, does not exist in reality, and the loss of it cannot harm anyone. Mosca informs Volpone that the two have arrived; Volpone professes himself and how great Corvino is and thanks Corvino greatly, implying that Corvino will be his heir. 

Questions: What did Corvino want his wife to do with Volpone? What did Celia want Corvino to do to her instead? Why is Corvino doing this? Why does Corvino believe honour is a breath?
Scene VII
Cell II.

Dialog, Cor: Heart of my father! Wilt thou persist thus? Come, I pray thee, come. Thou seest 'tis nothing, Celia. By this hand, I shall grow violent. Come, do't, I say.
Cel: Sir, kill me, rather: I will take down poison, eat burning coals, do anything.
Cor: Be damn'd!

Celia begs a final time to be spared having to sleep with Volpone, but Corvino insists, and threatens to drag her through the streets and—ironically—proclaim her a whore if she does not comply. The act, he says, is not important, since Volpone is old, and will not take much advantage of her; in any case and it will benefit him greatly in financial terms. As soon as Volpone and Celia are alone, Volpone leaps off of his bed, and begins his seduction. He tells Celia that she is heavenly to him, and that he is a far more worthy lover than is Corvino.

Questions: Why does Corvino threaten to "drag her through the street"?
Why does Corvino think Volpone will not take advantage of Celia?
What happens when Volpone is alone with Celia?
How does Volpone try to seduce her?
Scene VII.
Cell III.

Dialog,
Cel: O God, and his angels whither, Is shame fled human breasts? that with such ease, men dare put off your honours, and their own?
Vol: Ay, in Corvino, and such earth-fed minds, that never tasted the true heaven of love.
Cel: Sir!

He details all the sensuous pleasures she will have if she becomes his lover. But Celia is unmoved; she refuses his advances, asking him to stop, offering to never speak of what happened. Volpone is enraged by her refusal, and tells her that if she won't make love to him willingly, then he will take her by force. She cries out to God; Volpone tells her she does it in vain, but just at that moment, Bonario jumps out from behind his hiding place and rescues Celia, spiriting her away. Volpone laments that his con has been exposed.

Questions: Volpone details the sensuous pleasures to whom? Why does Volpone get enraged? If she does not comply willingly, what will Volpone do to her? Who rescues Celia?
Dialog, Mos: Where shall I run, most wretched shame of men, to beat out my unlucky brains?
Vol: Here, here. What dost thou bleed?
Mos: O that his well-driv’n sword had been so souteous to have cleft me down unto the naval.

Mosca enters, bleeding from a sword-wound that Bonario has given him on his way out. Volpone is concerned by the injury, but when Mosca blames himself for the disaster of his escape and Bonario's discovery of Volpone's deceit. Volpone readily agrees.

Questions: Who wounded Mosca?
Who is concerned about Mosca?
Why does Volpone soon agree with Mosca for the cause of his failure?
What is Mosca wounded by?
Scene VIII

Cell V

Dialog, Vol: woe on thy fortune.

Mos: And my follies, sir.

Vol: Thou hast made me miserable.

Mos: and myself, sir. Who would have thought he would have harken’d so?

Volp: What shall we do?

Volpone so states that Mosca has made him miserable and Mosca replies saying he too has made himself miserable. Volpone ask to him self what they must do next. They briefly consider what they are going to do, with Mosca suggesting suicide. He says “And I’ll requite you, sir. Let us die like Romans, since we have lived like Grecians.”

Questions: Why had Mosca said he made himself feel miserable? Why does Mosca suggest suicide? How do you think Volpone will handle the current situation? What does Mosca mean by “Let us die like Romans, since we have lived like Grecians”?
Scene VIII  
Cell VI

Dialog, Vol: Hark who’s there? I hear some footing; officers, the saffi, come to apprehend us!  
Mos: to your couch, sir, you, you make the place good however.

Then they hear a knock at the door; Volpone believes he hears soldiers coming on foot to apprehend them. Mosca tells him to sit down. And Corbaccio enters.

Questions: What does Volpone hear?  
What does he believe is at the door?  
He believes that who has come to capture him?  
Who enters?
Act III
Scene IX
Cell VII

Dialog, Corb: Why, how now, Mosca?
Mos: O, undone, amazed, sir. Your son, I know not by what accident, Acquainted with your purpose to my patron, touching your will, and makin him your heir, enter’d our house with violence, his sword drawn sought for you, call’d you wretch, unnatural, vow’d he would kill you.
Corb: me?
Mos: yes and my patron.

Corbaccio enters with Voltore following. Corbaccio asks Mosca what happened and how was he injured. Mosca tells Corbaccio that his son was searching to kill him, in revenge for his disinheritance. Corbaccio accepts the lie readily and agrees to make Volpone his heir, asking Mosca if Volpone is going to die anytime soon so that he can inherit his money.

Questions: Corbaccio enters and asks what, of Mosca? What does Mosca tell Corbaccio? Why does Corbaccio make Volpone his heir? What does Corbaccio ask Mosca about Volpone’s health?
Scene IX
Cell VIII

Dialog, Voltore: Scarce, to the discovery of your tricks, I fear. You are his, only? And mine, also? Are you not?
Mosca: Who? I, sir?
Voltore: You, sir. What devise is this about a Will?

Hearing this, Voltore becomes angry and accuses Mosca of double-dealing; who is going to be the heir, he demands, Voltore or Corbaccio? Mosca professes his loyalty to Voltore and then recounts the events that have just happened with a deceitful spin. Mosca tells Voltore that he had brought Bonario in to watch his father sign away his inheritance to Volpone, in the hopes that the enraged Bonario would kill his treacherous father, thus leaving the path open for Voltore to inherit the magnifico's wealth.

Questions: What does Voltore accuse Mosca of?
Mosca tells Voltore what?
Mosca hopes Bonario will do what to Corbaccio?
After that the path will be open for Voltore to inherit what?
Scene IX
Cell IX

Dialog, Voltore: I cry thee mercy Mosca.
Mosca: Worthy your patience, and your great merit, Sir. And, see the change!
Voltore: Why? what success?

But, Mosca lies, Bonario grew impatient waiting for his father, thus kidnapped Celia and made her "cry rape," in order to frame Volpone and thus make it impossible for him to inherit. Voltore, the lawyer that he is, immediately takes Mosca's side, seeing the threat to his own interests (if Volpone is convicted he will not be able to inherit anything, or pass on an inheritance), and he immediately demands that Mosca fetch Corvino and bring him to the Scrutineo.

Questions: Bonario kidnapped whom?
What did he make them do?
Voltore takes whose side?
Volpone demands Mosca to do what?
Act IV, scene I; Cell 1

Quote 
Sir P. I told you, sir, it was a plot: you see
What observation is! You mention’d me
For some instructions: I will tell you, sir,
(Since we are met here in this height of Venice,)
Some few particulars I have set down,
Only for this meridian, fit to be known
Of your crude traveler; and they are these.
I will not touch, sir, at your phrase, or clothes,
For they are old.

Summary: Sir Politic and Peregrine are walking along a street (canal?) talking. As Peregrine is a traveler, and thus not from Venice, Sir Politic starts a conversation about life in Venice.

Questions:
1) “I will not touch, sir, at your phrase, or clothes, For they are old.” What does this mean?
2) Sir Politic has advice, or particulars, to tell Peregrine about. But was it right to call him a crude traveler?
3) What is Sir Politic going to talk to Peregrine about?
4) Does this level of honesty and advice occur today amongst people, especially of those who do not know each other well?
Act IV; scene I; Cell 2

Quote: Sir P. First, for your garb, it must be grave and serious, Very reserv’d and lock’d; not tell a secret On any terms, not to your father; scarce A fable, but with caution: make sure choice Both of your company, and discourse; beware You never speak a truth— Per. How! Sir P. Not to strangers, (...) Sir P. Then must you learn the use And handling of your silver fork at meals, The metal of your glass; (these are main matters With your Italian;) and to know the hour When you must eat your melons, and your figs.

Summary: As the conversation about life in Venice continues, Sir Politic teaches Peregrine two rules that he must follow in Venice (Note how the rules reveal the society of Venice). They are these; never speak the truth to a stranger and learn to have proper manners.

Questions:
1) What does Sir Politic mean by saying “First, for you garb, it must be grave and serious...?”
2) Does it seem that Sir Politic is a good man from this small snippet of dialogue between him and Peregrine?
3) Sir Politic is guiding a stranger through life in Venice. What does it seem that he is trying to get out of Peregrine?
4) How common is it today, in a big city for a well-off person to approach a complete stranger and give him or her advice?
Act IV, scene I; Cell 3

Sir P. One is, and that
I care not greatly who knows, to serve the state
Of Venice with red herrings for three years,
And at a certain rate, from Rotterdam,
Where I have correspondence. (...)

Sir P. My first is
Concerning tinder-boxes. You must know,
No family is here without its box.
Now, sir, it being so portable a thing,
Put case, that you or I were ill affected
Unto the state, sir; with it in our pockets,
Might not I go into the Arsenal,
Or you, come out again, and none the wiser?
Per. Except yourself, sir.
Sir P. Go to, then. I therefore
Advertise to the state, how fit it were,
That none but such as were known patriots,
Sound lovers of their country, should be suffer’d
To enjoy them in their houses; and even those
Seal’d at some office, and at such a bigness
As might not lurk in pockets. (...)

Sir P. Beside my water-works: for this I do, sir
First, I bring in your ship ‘twixt two brick walls;
But those the state shall venture: On the one
I strain me a fair tarpauling, and in that
I stick my onions, cut in halves: the other
Is full of loop-holes, out at which I thrust
The noses of my bellows; and those bellows
I keep, with water-works, in perpetual motion,
Which is the easiest matter of a hundred.
Now, sir, your onion, which doth naturally
Attract the infection, and your bellows blowing
The air upon him, will show, instantly,
By his changed colour, if there be contagion;
Or else remain as fair as at the first.
—Now it is known, ’tis nothing.

Summary: Sir Politic contradicts his advice about not telling the truth to strangers and tells Peregrine about his three money making schemes. The first is to import red herrings from a cheese vendor in to Venice (which is ironic because Venice is right on the sea). The second is to convince the government to outlaw pocket sized tinder boxes (people might hide gunpowder in there) and supply the larger ones himself. The third is to use onions to detect plague on a ship rather than the standard quarantine of about 40 days.

Questions:
1) How does Sir Politic contradict himself by explaining to Peregrine his money making schemes?
2) Does it seem that Peregrine will become a partner with Sir Politic in his business ventures?
3) Peregrine catches the gullibility of Sir Politic in his money making schemes. Was it right for Peregrine to continue listening to Sir Politic while knowing the gullibility of Sir Politic?
4) Does desperation breed foolishness in business ventures?
Act IV, scene 2; Cell 4

Quote: Lady P. Where should this loose knight be, trow? sure he’s housed.
   Nan. Why, then he’s fast.
   Lady P. Ay, he plays both with me.
   I pray you stay. This heat will do more harm
   To my complexion, than his heart is worth.
   (I do not care to hinder, but to take him.)
   How it comes off!

        [Rubbing her cheeks.

   1 Wom. My master’s yonder.
   Lady P. Where?
   2 Wom. With a young gentleman.
   Lady P. That same’s the party;
   In man’s apparel! ’Pray you, sir, jog my knight:
   I will be tender to his reputation,
   However he demerit.

Summary: Lady Politic is walking with Nano and two serving women, talking about her husband’s unfaithfulness in their marriage. She is so frustrated that she says it’s ruining her complexion and rubs her cheeks to illustrate her point. The first serving woman spots Sir Politic walking with Peregrine, and Lady Politic exclaims that Peregrine (that “young gentleman”) is a prostitute disguised as a man. Lady Politic yells at Sir Politic, but asks Peregrine’s forgiveness once she learns he is a man.

Questions:
1)Lady Politic is gravely hurt about Sir Politic’s unfaithfulness, but she says “I will be tender to his reputation, However he demerit.” What insight does this show to her feelings towards her husband?  
2)Is it right to accuse Sir Politic of having a prostitute, considering that she only has word of mouth and sight of Sir Politic walking with a man?  
3)Will Lady Politic let this incident destroy her love for Sir Politic?  
4)How many marriages are ruined because of unfaithfulness, and is it as common today as it was then?
Act IV, scene 3; Cell 5

Quote: Mos. What is the injury, lady?
Lady P. Why, the callet
You told me of, here I have ta’en disguised.
Mos. Who? this! what means your ladyship? the creature
I mention’d to you is apprehended now,
Before the senate; you shall see her—
Lady P. Where?
Mos. I’ll bring you to her. This young gentleman,
I saw him land this morning at the port.

Summary: Mosca enters into the play and tells Lady Politic that Peregrine is not the prostitute that he told her about. He even tells that he saw Peregrine land at the port just that morning.

Questions:
1) Looking at the context of the above dialogue, what is a callet?
2) Was it right for Lady Politic to work herself into a rage and shame her husband in front of others about his alleged use of prostitutes?
3) Will Lady Politic end her marriage with Sir Politic if she finds the prostitute Mosca has told her about?
4) Mosca’s secretly telling Lady Politic of a prostitute and Sir Politic resulted in Peregrine being accused of prostituting himself to Sir Politic. Is this a simple case of gossip and its destructive power?
Act IV, scene 3; Cell 6

Quote: Lady P. Is’t possible! how has my judgment wander’d?
Sir, I must, blushing, say to you, I have err’d;
And plead your pardon.
Per. What, more changes yet!
Lady P. I hope you have not the malice to remember
A gentlewoman’s passion. If you stay
In Venice here, please you to use me, sir—
Mos. Will you go, madam?
Lady P. ’Pray you, sir, use me; in faith,
The more you see me, the more I shall conceive
You have forgot our quarrel. (...)

[Exeunt Lady Would-be, Mosca, Nano, and Waiting-women.

Per. This is rare!
Sir Politick Would-be? no; sir Politick Bawd,
To bring me thus acquainted with his wife!
Well, wise sir Pol, since you have practiced thus
Upon my freshman-ship, I’ll try your salt-head,
What proof it is against a counter-plot.

Summary: Lady Politic apologizes to Peregrine, in a sexually suggestive manner, and Peregrine takes her apology as an attempt by Sir Politic to “bring [him] thus acquainted with his wife (or prostitute his wife to him)!” Peregrine swears vengeance upon Sir Politic for that (after all, he’d already been accused of being a prostitute).

Questions:
1) When Peregrine exclaims “sir Politick Bawd, To bring me thus acquainted with his wife,” what does he mean?
2) Was it right to pledge vengeance on Sir Politic for the actions of his wife?
3) Will Sir Politic and Peregrine’s short friendship last throughout the rest of the play?
4) How many men would be brutally offended today, if a man’s wife offered herself to him and he knew the husband?
CELL #1 (ACT 4, scene 4, part 1)
Quote: "O, sir, by no means; I devised a formal tale, that salv’d your reputation. But be valiant, sir." says Mosca.
Summary: Voltore, Corbaccio, Corvino and Mosca enter the law courts of the Venetian state (Scrutineo) and appear before the judge's answer the accusations of Bonario and Celia. Voltore will be presenting this case.
Questions:
1) Comprehension: “Hang him; we will but use his tongue, his noise, as we do croakers here.” Says Mosca. What does the sentence “ As we do croakers here.” Mean?
   a) Person who grumbles.
   b) Liars.
   c) Bonario and Celia
   d) Corvino and Voltore
2) Ethical: If the judges support the accusation of Bonario and Celia, would that be a right conclusion?
3) Associative: How does this scene relate to the current Peterson trial?
4) Predictive: What will be the judge's answer before the accusations made by Bonario and Celia?
CELL #2 (ACT 4, scene 4, part 2)
Quote: "I have another witness if you need, sir I can produce." says Mosca.
Summary: Bonario expresses to Mosca that Voltore will become the co-heir since he’s helping Volpone. But Mosca tells this that he had told Voltore a story to tell about the incident that'll save Corbino's reputation. He also says he has a witness just in case.
Questions:
1) Comprehensive: Why does Bonario think Voltore will be the co-heir?
   a) Because he’s smart.
   b) Because he’s helping Volpone
   c) Because Volpone likes him
   d) Because Voltore is the real heir.
2) Ethical: Does Voltore deserve to be a co-heir to Volpone?
3) Predictive: Who is the witness Mosca was talking about?
4) Literary: Dramatic irony is present in this scene. Explain.
CELL #3 (ACT 4, scene 5, part 1)
Quote: "I not know to give his act a name, it is no monstrous!" says apocatori 1.
Summary: 4 avocatori who serve the courts comes in along with Bonario, Celia, a Notary and some guards. The avocatori discuss how they've never heard anything as "monstrous" as the story Celia had told them.
Questions:
1) Comprehensive: Who says the story was monstrous?
2) Ethical: Do they have the right to say this story was monstrous or are they exaggerating?
3) Associative: How does this relate to the play RICHARD III? (The fact that Richard killed a lot of people).
4) Predictive: Will Celia dictate her story to the court?
CELL #4 (ACT 4, scene 5, part 2)
Quote: "I never heard a true voluptuary described, but him," says Avocatori 2.
Summary: Apocataris discuss about the story. (That Corvino agreed to prostitute his Celia to Volpone in exchange of becoming the heir. Volpone tries to rape Celia and that Corbaccio disinherited his son Bonario.)
Questions:
1) Comprehension: “his knave, his pandar- I beseech the court, he may be forced to come. A knave is a male servant, who is Bonario referring this to?
   a) Voltore
   b) Mosca
   c) Volpone
   d) Corvino

2) Ethical: Whose fault was it actually, Corvino letting Volpone take his wife, or Volpone for trying to rape her?
3) Associative: How is this situation related to America's current even about rapes?

CELL #5 (ACT 4, scene 5, part 3)
Quote: "Upon my faith and credit with you virtues, he is not able to endure the air."
Summary: Avocatori asks where Volpone is, and Mosca replies he's too ill to come, but the avocatori insist that he come anyway. So they send guards to go fetch him.
Questions
1) Comprehensive: Why couldn't Volpone come to the court?
2) Ethical: Did Volpone have a right of not showing up?
3) Associative: This relates to every day current event for children. List an example.
4) Predictive: Will Volpone show up to the court?
CELL #6 (ACT 4, scene 5, part 4)
Quote: “This lewd woman, that wants no artificial looks or tears to help the vizor she has now put on, hath long been known a close adulteress to that lascivious youth there.” Lascivious mostly means having an exciting sexual desire. Who is this referred to?
   a) Celia
   b) Lady Politic
   c) Volpone
   d) Bonario

Summary: Voltore then speaks to the court and claims a different story. That Celia and Bonario are lovers, and that Bonario went to Volpone’s house to kill his father Corbaccio for disinheriting him, but since he wasn’t there, Bonario decided to attack Volpone. Celia says Volpone had raped her in order to frame him so he can prevent from collecting his inheritance.
Questions:
1) Comprehensive: Why did Celia say Volpone had raped her if it wasn’t true?
2) Ethical: Were Celia and Corbaccio trying to frame Volpone for the best of everyone?
3) Predictive: Will Scrutineo believe this story? Which will they think it’s true?
4) Literary: Lascivious mostly means having an exciting sexual desire. Who is this referred to?
   a) Celia
   b) Lady Politic
   c) Volpone
   d) Bonario

CELL #7 (ACT 4, scene 5, part 5)
Quote: “Here is the lady herself, that saw them; without, who then had in the open streets pursued them, but for saying her knight’s honour.” Says Mosca.
Summary: Voltore says he has seen Bonario and Celia making love and has their love-letter (forged). Then Mosca says he was wounded while protecting Volpone. Celia faints. And the avocatory starts doubting about the story Bonario and Celia had told them.

Questions:
1) Comprehensive: Why did Mosca get wounded?
2) Ethical: Would it be right for Voltore to blame Celia and Bonario?
3) Literary: “She’s a creature of a most profest and lewdness”.
   What is the metaphor for this sentence?
   a) She’s a prostitute
   b) She’s a fair person
   c) She’s a liar
   d) She almost committed suicide.
4) Predictive: What will happen to Celia and Bonario if this story is true?

CELL #8 (ACT 4, scene 6, part 1)
Quote: “Ay, this same is she. Out, thou chameleon harlot? Now thine eyes vie tears with the hyaena. Dar’st thou look upon my wronged
face? I cry your pardons, I fear I have forgettently transgrest against the dignity of the court." Says Lady Politic Would-Be.

Summary: Mosca goes and fetch his witness Lady Politic would-be. She corroborates Mosca’s claims, that she had seen Celia and Bonario together. Celia then apologizes to the judges for disgracing the court.

Questions:

1) Comprehensive: Who was Mosca’s witness?
2) Ethical: Did Celia do the right thing by apologizing to the judges?
3) Literary: ” He shall have yet as many left diseases, as she has known adulterers, or thou strumpets...” says Voltore. What kind of literary device is occurred?
   a) Personification
   b) Simile
   c) Metaphor
   d) Apostrophe

4) Predictive: What will happen to Celia now that she has apologized?
CELL #9 (ACT 4, scene 6, part 2)
Quote: "Best try him with goads, or burning irons; put him to the
strappado; I have heard the rack hath cursed the grout; faith give it to
him, and help him of a malady; be courteous.
Summary: Voltore produces his final proof; Volpone. Looking old and
crippled proves the Scrutineo that Celia and Bonario were wrong.
Volpone then is sent to be “tested”, which Voltore takes to mean as
“tortured”. But Voltore suggests that torture might cure his illness.
Questions:
1) Comprehensive: Why is Volpone sent to be tested?
2) Ethical: Volpone was attacked by Bonario and now he’s crippled.
   Was this act right?
3) Predictive: What will happen to Celia and Bonario?
4) Literary: As the quote is stated above, what kind of literary
device is shown by reading the word, “tested” and “tortured”? 
   a) Metaphor
   b) Simile
   c) Personification
CELL #10 (ACT 4, scene 6, part 3)
Quote: “Curtain-rings, sir. Only the advocate’s fee must be deducted.
Summary: The avocatory are convinced of Voltore’s story and takes Celia and Bonario away to be separated. They apologize Volpone for disturbing him, Mosca congratulates Voltore. Corvino is worried that Voltore will get a part of Volpone’s fortune, and demands Corbaccio to pay Voltore. Mosca then assures Lady Politic that she’ll be made Volpone’s principal heir.
Questions:
1) Comprehensive: Why does Corvino demand Corbaccio to pay Voltore?
2) Ethical: Would it be right for them to separate Bonario and Celia?
3) Prediction: What will happen to the two lovers?
4) Literary: “Acts of this bold and most exorbitant strait, may pass with sufferance.” Says Voltore. What is the metaphor of this sentence?
“Volpone: “Well, I am here, and all this brunt is past. I ne’er was in dislike with my disguise till this fled moment; here ‘twas good in private; But in your public, --cave whilst I breathe. ‘Fore God, my left leg began to have the cramp, And I apprehended straight some power had struck me with a dead palsy: Well! I must be merry, and shake it off. A many of these fears would put me into some villainous disease should they come thick apon me: I’ll prevent ‘em. Give me a bowl of lusty wine, to fright this humor from my heart.”

Summary: At the beginning of Scene 5, Volpone returns home and feels sick. He is starting to feel the same cramps and having the same shakes and tremors that he has been pretending to have. He drinks wine to make himself feel better.

Comprehension: How does Volpone do to make himself feel better?

Ethical: Do you think it good for people to drink wine to make themselves feel better?

Literary: The cramps and pains that Volpone suffers are a metaphor of:

a) God’s punishment
b) A blurring of the lines between lies and reality  
c) Something he has done in the past  
d) Volpone's hatred toward Mosca

Prediction: Do you think this cramps and pains will continue if Volpone doesn't end the con?
“Mosca: Why now you speak, sir. We must here be fix’d; Here we must rest; this is our master-piece; we cannot think to go beyond this. Volpone: True”

Summary: Mosca thinks they should call off the con game before they reach a point of no return. Volpone agrees and says he is tired of it anyway.

Comprehension: Does Volpone agree or disagree with Mosca’s idea?

Ethical: Do you think it was a good move to call off the con?

Prediction: If they call off the con and reveal the hoax to everybody, what do you think will be their reaction? (Anger or Amusement)

Literary: “Have any glebe more fruitful than these fellows”
In the quote above, the word fruitful most closely means:
   a) Happy and cheerful
   b) Producing something in abundance
   c) Something that has a lot of fruit
   d) Colorful
“Volpone: Go, Straight give about the streets, you two, That I am dead; do it with constancy, Sadly, do you hear? Impute it to the grief of this late slander”

Summary: Before Volpone calls off the con, he wants to pull one last joke on the legacy hunters (Lady Politic, Corvino, Corbaccio, Corvino, and Voltore). He calls in Castrone and Nano, and tells them to run through the streets telling everyone that Volpone is dead.

Comprehension: What is the final joke that Volpline wants to do to the legacy hunters?

Ethical: Do you think it is right for someone to fake their death?

Literary: In the quote above the word slander, most closely means:
   a) Something that his slanted
   b) A joke
   c) A false statement
   d) Death
Prediction: Do you think the legacy hunters will mourn over Volpone’s death? If not, what will they do?
“Volpone: ‘Tis true. I will have thee put on a gown, and take upon thee, as thou went mine heir: Shew them a will; Open that chest, and reach Forth one of those that has the blanks; I’ll straight Put in thy name”

Summary: In addition to his prank, Volpone is going to make Mosca the heir to his fortune.

Comprehension: Who is now the heir to Volpone’s fortune?

Ethical: By making Mosca the heir, do you think this is taking the con too far?

Literary: “Let me embrace thee”
In the quote above the word embrace most closely means:
   a) Shoot
   b) Stab
   c) Hold close
   d) Worship

Prediction: What do you think will be the reaction of the legacy hunters when they see Mosca’s name on the will?
“Mosca: But, what, sir if they ask after the body?
Volpone: Say, it was corrupted
Mosca: I’ll say it stunk, sir; and was fain to have it Coffin’d up instantly, and sent away.”

Summary: Volpone tells Mosca, if they ask to see his dead body, tell them it smelled and had to be coffined up immediately.

Comprehension: What would be the reason for them to coffin the body immediately?

Ethical: Is it OK to fake your death.

Literary: In the quote above the word corrupted most closely means”
   a) Disappeared
   b) Perfect condition
   c) Ruined
   d) In tact

Prediction: Do you think the legacy hunters will want to see the dead body or the will?
“Voltore: How now, my Mosca? Mosca [writing]: “Turkey carpets, nine”— Voltore: Taking an inventory! That is well

Corbaccio: Is it done, Mosca? Mosca: “Of several velvets, eight”— Voltore: I like his care

Corvino: What does the advocate here, Or this Corbaccio? Corbaccio: What do there here

Lady Politic: Mosca! Is his thread spun?”

Summary: Voltore Corbaccio, Corvino, and Lady Politic enter after hearing the news of Volpone’s death. They find Mosca taking inventory and praise him for his care. Then they ask to see the will.

Comprehension: When the legacy hunters arrive, what do they find Mosca doing?
Ethical: After hearing the news of Volpone’s death, instead of mourning, the legacy hunters are begging to see his will. Is this right?

Literary: In the quote above the word inventory most closely means:
   a) A store
   b) A record of
   c) A home
   d) An invention

Prediction: Do you think Mosca will let them see the will?
“[Mosca gives them the will carelessly, over his shoulder.]  
Corbaccio: Is that the will?  
Mosca: “Down-beds, and bolsters”—  
Volpone: Ay, in their garters, Mosca. Now their hopes are at the gasp.  
Voltore: Mosca the heir?  
Corbaccio: What’s that?  
Corbaccio [Takes the will]: All thses are out of hope: I am sure, the man  
Corvino: But, Mosca—  
Mosca: “Two Cabinets”  
Corvino: Is this in earnest? Or do you but delude me?  
Mosca: The other, mother of pearl – I am very busy. Good faith, it is a fortune thrown upon me”

Summary: Mosca gives the will to Corbaccio and everyone is appalled to see Mosca’s name written on it. They are angry and demand an explanation from Mosca. Mosca says he is very busy because of the huge fortune thrown upon him.

Comprehension: What is their reaction to Mosca’s name being on the will?

Ethical: Everyone is outraged when they see Mosca’s name on the will and not theirs. Do you have the right to be angry if your name is not on the will?

Literary: “I will make bold with your obstreperous aid”  
a) Helpful
b) Unhelpful  
  c) Loud  
  d) Quite

Prediction: Do you think the legacy hunters will attack Mosca?
“Mosca: Remember what your ladyship offer’d me, to put you in an heir; go to, think on it: and what you said e’en your best madams did for maintenance, and why not you? Enough. Go home, and use the poor sir Pol, your knight, well, for fear I tell some riddles; go be melancholy” [Exit Lady Politic]

Summary: After Lady Politic is shocked and outraged about the will, Mosca tells her off. He reminds her that she offered him sex in return for Volpones estate. Mosca tells her to go home. She then leaves.

Comprehension: What did Lady Politic offer Mosca in return for Volpones estate?

Ethical: Do you think offering sex for something is ok?

Literary: In the quote above, the word melancholy most closely means:
    a) Sad
    b) Happy
Prediction: Do you think that Lady Politic will feel regret for what she did?
“Mosca: Hear you; do not you know, I know you an ass, and that you would most fain have been a wittol, If fortune would most fain have been a wittol. If fortune would have let you? That you are a declared cuckold, on food terms?
This pearl, you’ll say, was yours? Right: this diamond? Ill not deny’t but thank you. Much here else? It may be so. Why, think that these good works may help to hide your bad. I’ll not betray you; although you be but extraordinary, and have it only in title, it sufficeth: Go home, be melancholy too, or be mad. [Exit Corvino]”

Summary: After Lady Politic leaves, Corvino also demands an explanation. Mosca says he should be ashamed for unjustly surrendering his wife to Volpone for Volpone’s estate.

Comprehension: What did Corvino do in order to get Volopne’s estate?

Ethical: Is it right to surrender your own wife for someone’s inheritance?
Literary: The word “cuckold” most closely means:
   a) A baby chicken
   b) A man married to an unfaithful wife
   c) A woman married to a unfaithful man
   d) A faithful person

Prediction: Do you think Corvino feel remorse for surrendering his wife?
“Corbaccio: I am coaned’d, cheated, by a parasite slave; Harolt, thou hast gull’d me
Mosca: Yes Sir. Stop your mouth, Or I shall draw the only tooth is left.
Are not you he, that filthy covetous wretch, with the three legs, that, here, in hope of prey, have, any time this three years, snuff’d about, with your most groveling nose; and would have hired me to the poisoning of my patron, sir? Are not he that have to-day in court profess’d the disinheriting of your son? Perjured yourself? Go home, and die, and stink. If you but croak a syllable, all comes out away, and call your porters! Go, go, stink.”

Summary: Mosca tells off Carbaccio by saying he disinherited his own son in order to get Volpone’s inheritance.

Comprehension: What did Corbaccio do in order to get Volpone’s inheritance?

Ethical: Would you disinherit your son for someone else’s estate?

Literary: The quote about “Stop your mouth, or I shall draw the only tooth is left.” Implies that Corbaccio:
a) Gets into a lot fights
b) Is not human
c) Is old
d) Got hit by a car

Prediction: Do you think Corbaccio will feel regret for disinheriting his son?
“Mosca: That nay chance of mine should thus defeat your (I must needs say) most deserving travails: But I protest, sir, it was cast upon me, and I could almost wish to be without it, But that the will o’ the dead must be observ’d. Marry, my joy is that you need it not, You have a gift sir, (thank your education,) Will never let you want, while there are men, And malice, to breed causes. Would I had but half the like, for all my fortune, sir! If I have any suits, as I do hope, Things being so easy and direct, I shall not, I will make bold with your obstreperous aid, Conceive me, --for your fee, sir. I mean time, you that have so much law, I know have the conscience, Not to be covetous of what is mine. Good sir, I thank you for my plate; ’twill help to set up a young man. Good faith, you look as you were costive; best go home and purge, sir. [Exit Voltore]”

Summary: Mosca shows sympathy and feels sorry for Voltore. Mosca shows regret that Voltore will not be made heir.

Comprehension: How does Mosca feel about Voltore not getting the inheritance?

Ethical: Is it good to show sympathy towards others?
Literary: In the quote above, the word covetous, most closely means:
   a) Mean
   b) Careful
   c) Desire
   d) Unnecessary

Prediction: How do you think Voltore will feel afterwards?
Cell 1. Act V

Peregrine: Am I enough disguised?
1 Merchant: I warrant you.
Peregrine: All my ambition is to fright him only.
2 Merchant: If you could ship him away, ’twere excellent.
3 Merchant: To Zant, or to Aleppo?
Peregrine: Yes and have his adventures put I’ the Book of Voyages. And his gull’d story registered for truth.
Well, gentlemen, when am in a while, And that you think us warm in our disclosure, Know your approaches.

Peregrine is going to introduce himself as a merchant to Sir Politick Would-Be. Peregrine’s plan is to trick Sir Politick and scare him. Peregrine has recruited 3 real merchants to help him out with the trick. They are talking about when to go in after Peregrine.

The third merchant mentions that it would be excellent if Sir Politick was sent away to where?

In the quote above, the word gull’d most nearly means?
a. Foolish and tricky
b. Horrific and frightening
c. Embarrassing and bashful
d. Truthful and serious

Do you think Sir Politick will be sent away?

a. I do not know sir.
b. I do not know, sir.
c. I do not knew, sir.
d. I do not know, sur.
Peregrine: Pray you say unto him, 
Here is a merchant, upon earnest business, 
Desires to speak with him. 
Woman: I will see sir. 
Peregrine: Pray you-- 
I see the family is all female here. 
Woman: he says, sir, he has weighty affairs of state, 
That now require him whole, these will exact him, 
Whereof I bring him tidings. 
[Exit Woman] 
-- What might be 
His grave affair of state now! How to make 
Bolognian sausages here in Venice, sparing 
One o’ the ingredients?

Peregrine enters the house of Sir Politick and a woman comes to ask what his business is with the master. He tells her that he is a merchant coming to talk upon "earnest business." The woman says that he is in a meeting and talking about stately affairs. Peregrine tells himself a joke that partly calls Sir Politick a moron (Bolognian sausages).

Does Peregrine think Sir Politick deserves his title?

In the quote above, the word pray most nearly means?

a. to worship a religious figure
b. to ask for something to be done
c. to question a pickle
Is Peregrine a good deceiver? Do you think he was able to fool the woman

a. Sir, I must crave your courteous pardon.
b. Sir, I must crave youre courteous pardon.
c. Sir I must crave your courteous pardon.
d. Sir I must crave your courteuous pardon.
Woman: Sir he says he knows
By your word "tidings,' that you are no statesman,
And therefore wills you to stay.
Peregrine: Sweet, pray you return him;
I have not read so many proclamations,
And studied them for words, as he has done,--
But here he deigns to come.

The woman comes back and tells Peregrine to stay because Sir Politick figures Peregrine’s character/ costume is not from town.

What word does Peregrine say that makes Sir Politick want to meet with him after all?

In the quote above, the word deign most nearly means?

a. to condescend
b. to offer
c. to condescend to offer
d. to offer to condescend

Peregrine wants to frighten Sir Politick. Would you go so far as pretending to arrest someone to do so?

a. I am a wretch-- a wretch!
b. I am a wretch, a wretch!
c. I am a wretch, a wretch!
d. I am a wretch a wretch!
Sir Politick: sir, I must crave
Your courteous pardon. There hath chanced to-day,
Unkind disaster ‘twixt my lady and me;
And I was penning my apology,
To give her satisfaction, as you came now.
Peregrine: Sir, I am grieved I bring you worse disaster:
The gentleman you met at the port to-day,
That told you, he was newly arrived--
Sir Politick: Ay, was
A fugitive punk?
Peregrine: No, sir, spy set on you;
And he has made relation to the seate,
That you profest to him to have a plot
To sell the State of Venice to the Turk.

Peregrine’s trick is planted; that is men are coming to arrest Sir P. because he tried to sell Venice to the Turks. Sir P. also says that earlier he was writing an apology to his missus.

Who did Sir Politick plan to sell Venice to?

In the quote above the word ‘twixt most nearly means?
a. to consume  
b. to twist 
c. a fancy name for a candy bar 
d. between

Do you think Sir Politick will believe Peregrine?
a. What, to run over?
b. What to run over?
c. What? To run over.
d. What, too run over?
Cell 5. Act V

Peregrine: For which, warrants are sign’d by this time,  
To apprehend you, and to search your study  
For papers--  
Sir P.  : Alas, sir, I have none, but notes  
Drawn out of play-books--  
Peregrine: all the better, sir.  
Sir P.  : And some essays. What shall I do?  
Peregrine: Sir, best  
Convey yourself in to a sugar-chest;  
Or, if you could lie round, a frail were rare:  
And I could send you aboard.  
Sir P.  : Sir, I but talk’d so,  
For discourse sake merely.

Peregrine says that in a couple of seconds, men will come in and  
search for letters of evidence or any kind of evidence that would prove  
Sir Politick guilty of selling Venice to the Turks.

What will allow the men to search Sir Politick’s house?

In the quote above, the word apprehend most nearly means?  
- a. to search  
- b. to kick  
- c. to arrest  
- d. to play with

Can you figure out what the three merchants included in Peregrine’s
plan are supposed to do?

a. Save you fair lady! Is Sir Pol within?
b. Save you, fair lady! Is sir Pol within?
c. Save you fair lady, is Sir Pol within?
3 Merchant: Sir Politick Would-Be?
2 merchant: Where is he?
Sir P: That I have thought upon before time.
Peregrine: what is it?
Sir P: I shall ne’er endure the torture.
Marry, it is, of a tortoise shell,
Fitted for these extremities: pray you, sir, help me.
Here I’ve a place, sir, to put back my legs,
Please you lay it on, sir,
[ LIES DOWN WHILE PREGRINE PLACES THE SHELL UPON HIM.]
And my black gloves. I’ll lie, sir, like a tortoise,
‘Til they are gone.
Peregrine: And you call this an ingine?
Sir P: Mine own device-- Good sir, bid my wife’s women
To burn my papers.

The "merchants" come in and act as police that have come to arrest
Sir P. Sir P. has decided to dress up as a dead tortoise and sit and wait
until the men leave with a hope that they would not discover that this
humongous turtle is a man.

What has Sir Politick decided to dress up as to hide from the
merchants?

In the quote above, the word extremities most nearly means?
a. limbs
b. joints
c. hideousness
d. sleeves

Is it ridiculous for Sir P to dress up as a tortoise to hide from his captors? Do you find him as an imbecile or a genius?

a. We must, and will sure to find him.
b. We must and will sure to find him.
c. We must, and will sure, to find him.
[RE-ENTER PEREGRINE]
1 Merchant: What Are you, sir?
Peregrine: I am a merchant, that came here
To look upon this tortoise.
3 Merchant: St. Mark!
What beast is this!
Peregrine: It is a fish.
2 Merchant: Come out here!
Peregrine: Nay, you may strike him, sir, and tread upon him;
He’ll bear a cart.
...
2 Merchant: Can he not go?
Peregrine: He creeps, sir.
1 Merchant: Let’s see him creep.

Peregrine makes Sir Politick’s situation worse by provoking the men to hit and stand on the tortoise costume.

Does Peregrine help Sir Politick in avoiding getting arrested?

In the quote from above, the word tread most nearly means?

a. to eat on top of
b. to make a sandwich using white bread
c. to walk over
d. to dance on top of
Do you think Sir Politick will be able to endure the kicking and hitting?

  a. Heart I will see him creep, or prick his guts!
  b. Heart, I will see him creep, or prick his guts.
  c. Heart I will see him creep or prick his guts.
  d. Heart, I will see him creep or, prick his guts!
Sir Politick: Where’s my lady?
Knows she of this?
Woman: I know not, sir.
Sr Politick: Enquire--
O, I shall be the fable of all feasts,
The freight of the gazetti; a ship-boy’s tale;
And, which is worst, even talk for ordinaries.
Woman: My lady’s come most melancholy home,
And says, sir, she will straight to sea, for physic.
Sir Politick: And I to shun this place and clime for ever;
Creeping with house on back: and think it well,
To shrink my poor head in my politic shell.

Sir Politick is ashamed of his actions for becoming a turtle and asks his wife’s maid if she has heard of the story. The maid replies no and says that his wife is to leave on a boat. Sir Politick thinks that this story will be the talk of the town.

Is Sir Politick worried about his story going around town?

In the quote above, the word clime most nearly means?

a. to bath in a tub of gloop
b. to live in the same temperature and climate
c. to recover decency
d. to climb mountains

Do you think Lady Politick has left in embarrassment of her husband, and heard that her husband dressed up as a tortoise?
Odds so he has garters!
Ods, so he has garters!
Ods so, he has garters.
Volpone: Am I then like him?
Mosca: O, sir, you are he;
No man can sever you.
Volpone: Good.
Mosca: But what am I?
Volpone: 'Fore heaven, a brave clarrissimo, thou becom’st it!
Pity thou wert sever not born one.
Mosca: f I hold
My made one, 'twill be well.
Volpone: I'll go and see
What news first at the court.

Mosca and Volpone are getting ready to go out and listen to the reactions of Corbaccio, Corvino, and Voltore at what they might say about Mosca "winning" the inheritance of "dead" Volpone. They are dressed up so that no one will recognize him.

What are Mosca and Volpone going to do once they get dressed up in costumes?

In the quote above, the word clarrissimo most nearly means?

a. a king
b. a knight
c. a nobleman
d. a fruit

What news do you think Volpone wants to hear at the court?

a. For you next project I shall be prepared: I am sorry for the funeral
of your notes, sir.
b. For your next project I shall be prepared. I am sorry for the funeral of your notes sir.
c. For you next project I shall be prepared. I am sorry for the funeral of your notes sir.
d. For your next project, I shall be prepared, I am sorry for the funeral

Cell 10, Act V

Mosca: Do so. My Fox
Is out of his hole, and ere he shall re-enter,
I’ll make him languish in his borrow’d case,
Except he come to composition with me.---
Androgyno, Castrone, Nano!
[ENTER ANDROGYNO, CASTRONE, AND NANO]
Mosca: Go, recreate yourselves abroad; go sport.---
[EXEUNT]
So, now I have the keys, and am possest.
Since he will needs be dead afore his time
I’ll bury him, or gain by him: I am his heir,
And so will keep me, till he share at least.
To cozen him of all, were but a cheat
Well placed; no, and would construe it a sin:
Let his sport pay for it, this is call’d the Foxtrap.

Mosca commands Androgyno, Castrone, and Nano to go abroad but is
cut off. He then starts talking to himself about a plan that he thought up. Mosca wants to steal Volpone’s inheritances once and for all. Mosca thought up a plan to benefit himself and by himself with Volpone unaware.

Is Mosca conniving enough without Volpone’s help?

In the quote above, the word construe most nearly means?
a. to consider
b. to string
c. to interpret
d. to consider

What do you think Mosca’s trick is going to be for Volpone. Will Volpone be tricked by his own "parasite"?

a. Why mine’s no tale my son would there have kill’d me.
b. Why mine’s no tale my son would there killed me.
c. Why mine is no tale, my son would have there killed me.
d. Why mine’s no tale: my son would there have kill’d me.
Volpone: Signior Corvino! And Corbaccio! Sir,
Much oy unto.
Corvino: Of what?
Volpone: The sudden good,
Dropt down upon you--
Corbino: Where?
Volpone: And, none knows how,
From old Volpone, sir.
Corbaccio: Out, arrant knave!
Volpone: Let not your too much wealth, sir, make you furious.
Corbaccio: Away, thou varlet!

Volpone dressed up as a command adore and headed out into the streets of Venice in the hopes of finding Corbaccio, Voltore, and Corvino, unhappy about Mosca’s sudden wealth. Volpone comes across Corvin and Corbaccio and jokes around with them and makes them furious.

Who is Volpone searching for and why?

In the quote from above, the word arrant most nearly means?
a. to be of some annoyance
b. to be in accordance with the times
c. to symbolize the currant (the fruit)
d. to be extreme, without moderation

Why do you think Volpone has come out to fool around with his unhappy "heirs"?
a. -- Here comes my vulture, heaving his beak up in the air, and snuffing.
b. Here comes my vulture heaving his beak up in the air and snuffing.
c. Here comes my vulture, heaving his beak up in the air and snuffing.
d. Here comes my vulture heaving his beak up in the air, and snuffing.
Corbaccio: Dost thou mock me?  
Volpone: You mock the world, sir; did you not change Wills?  
Corbaccio: Out harlot!  
Volpone: O! belike you are the man,  
Signior Corvino? ‘faith, you carry it well;  
You grow not mad withal: I love your spirit:  
You are not over-leaven’d with your fortune.  
You should have some would swell now, like a wine-fat,  
With such an autumn-- did he give you all, sir?  
Corbaccio: Avoid, you rascal!

Corbaccio is now irritated with Volpone (in disguise). Volpone jokes that the money should be "ready" to be collected now that it is swelled like the fat in wine to make it ready and aged. Corbaccio does not enjoy Volpone’s jokes and tells Volpone to leave him alone.

In the quote above, the word harlot most nearly means?
 a. a parrot  
b. a prostitute  
c. a carrot  
d. pure tomfoolery (foolishness)

Do you think Volpone will continue to fool around with Corbaccio and Corvino? Or will Voltore come around the corner and Volpone bother him?

a. Ay! I’ll come upon him for that hereafter, now his patron’s dead.  
b. Ay I’ll come upon him for that hereafter how his patrons dead.
c. Ay I’ll come upon him for that hearafter, now his patron’s dead.
d. Ay, I’ll come u
Volpone: You will not be acknowledge, sir; why, 'tis wise. Thus do all gamesters, at all games, dissemble: No man will seem to win. [EXEUNT CORVINO AND CORBACCIO] Here comes my vulture, Heaving his beak up in the air, snuffing.

Volpone’s jokes finally force Corbaccio and Corvino to leave but lo and behold, Volpone spots Voltore (Vuture = Voltoire in Italian)

Who does Volpone see coming around the corner? What does his name mean in English?

In the quote above, the word dissemble most nearly means?

a. to keep together and expose
b. to separate and conceal
c. to make acquaintances and talk amongst
d. to lose and be merry

What do you think Volpone will talk about with Voltore?

a. Outstript! Thus by a parasite!
b. Outstript thus by a parasite.
c. Outstript thus, by a parasite!
Volpone: The court stays for your worship.  
I e’en rejoice, sir, at your worship’s happiness,  
And that it fell into so learned hands,  
That understand the fingering—  
Voltore: What do you mean?  
Volpone: I mean to be a suitor to your worship,  
For the small tenement, out of reparations,  
That, to the end of your long row of houses,  
By the Piscaria: it was, in Volpone’s time,  
Your predecessor, ere he grew diseased,  
A handsome, pretty, custom’s bawdyhouse,  
As any was in Venice, none dispraised;  
But fell with him; his body and that house  
Decay’d together.

Volpone (who is still disguised) is speaking with Voltore about how Volpone died in an old house of old age. And Volpone also tells Voltore that he is a lucky man for “inheriting” Volpone’s wealth. Voltore does not appreciate this mockery.

Who is Volpone bothering now?

In the quote above, the word predecessor most nearly means?

a. A type of dinosaur  
b. A size of bowl  
c. A person, place, or thing that came before the present time  
d. A measurement
Do you think Voltore will react the same way Corvino and Corbaccio did towards Volpone’s disguise?

a. Come sir: leave your prating.
b. Come sir, leave your prating.
c. Come sir; leave your prating.
d. Come Sir, leave your prating.
Volpone: Marry, no end of your wealth, sir, God decrease it! Voltore: Mistaking knave! What mock’st thou my misfortune?
[EXIT Voltore]
Volpone: His blessing on your heart, sir; would ‘twere more!—
Now to my first again, at the next corner.

Volpone is just pushing Voltore’s patience. So then, Voltore leaves Volpone’s presence.

Does Voltore leave?

In the quote above, the word knave most nearly means?
 a. A teacher who teaches English
 b. A pet who is odorous
 c. A student who is unruly
 d. A scoundrel

Who do you think is coming up the road who is Volpone’s "first"?

a. Ay, for that hereafter; now his patron's dead.
b. Ay for that hereafter; now his patron’s dead.
c. Ay, for that hereafter now his patron’s dead.
d. Ay for that hereafter now his patron’s dead.
“Voltore: Outstript thus, by a parasite! A slave, would run on errands, and make legs for crumbs?”

“Volpone: ‘Tis a mere toy to you, sir; candle-rents; as your learn’d worship knows—”

Summary: Voltore enters and is angry that Mosca received the inheritance instead of him. Volpone then enters and inquires about a “Bawdy House” (that was included in the inheritance) asking to buy it and restore it. This is meant to rub it in Voltore’s face that he didn’t receive the inheritance. Voltore then leaves frustrated and angry.

1. Why is Voltore aggravated when Volpone talks about the “Bawdy House?”
2. Based on this scene briefly describe one or more aspects of Volpone’s character.
3. Make a comparison of Volpone to anyone or anything based on his actions in this scene.
4. What is a “Bawdy House?” What can a “bawdy house” be compared to in today’s society?
"Corbaccio: See, in our habit! See the impudent varlet!"

"Corvino: That I could shoot mine eyes at him like gun stones."

"Volpone: There still was somewhat in his look, did promise the bane of a clarissimo."

Summary: Corbaccio and Corvino stand on the street while Mosca, dressed like someone of a very high social position, walks by them. Corbaccio and Corvino are infuriated by this blatant display. Volpone then enters to further their discontent using the same techniques he used on Voltore, that is he came to rub in the fact that Corbaccio and Corvino, two "esteemed" men had not received the inheritance and were beaten by a lowly slave/parasite.

1. Compare Volpone’s actions in this scene with his of another scene, then, with the aide of examples and/or evidence, determine a pattern in his behavior.
2. Predict Volpone’s fate assuming he continues this morally wrong behavior towards his peers.
3. Corbaccio and Corvino are angry especially because of what characteristics of Mosca.
4. Mosca enters dressed as a “clarissimo.” From your knowledge of the story, define clarissimo in your own words.
“Corvino: You shall perceive, sir, I dare beat you; approach.”

“Volpone: No haste, sir, I do know your valour well,”

Summary: After repetitive taunting, Corvino challenges Volpone to a fight and moves quickly to realize it. Volpone declines the fight and flees the scene. On his way out Volpone calls Corvino a “Distracted Cuckold,” which is not true. Corbaccio and Corvino chase Volpone out of the scene.

1. Flee : stay :: Tarry :
2. Why does Corvino want to fight with Volpone?
3. Compare Volpone’s actions in this scene to his of scene vii. Distinguish any differences and conclude upon them.
4. Predict whether or not Volpone will continue to act so morally corrupt if Corbaccio and Corvino catch up with him and express your opinion on whether it is wrong or right for Corbaccio and Corvino to beat Volpone up.
“Voltore: Well, Flesh-fly, it is summer with you now; your winter will come on.”

“Mosca: Get you a biggin more, your brain breaks loose.”

Summary: Voltore enters and proceeds to threaten Mosca. Mosca responds with an insult. Volpone then enters and Mosca leaves.

1. If Voltore’s brain “breaks loose,” and he needs a “biggin” to contain it, what can you assume a “biggin” is?
2. What does Voltore mean when he says that Mosca’s, “winter will come on?”
3. Considering that Voltore did not receive the inheritance, compare Voltore to Richard III, who, in the play “Richard III,” was denied the crown and then proceeded to dispose of everyone standing in between him and the crown.
4. Using knowledge of this play, other plays (for example Richard III), and of real life predict what will happen, if anything, to Mosca in the future.
Cell Five: Act V Scene ix

"Volpone: Would you have me beat the insolent slave, throw dirt upon his first good clothes?"

"Voltore: A strange, officious, troublesome knave! thou dost torment me"

Summary: After Mosca exits, Volpone starts tormenting Voltore once again, this time by asking if Voltore would like him to beat Mosca, the “insolent slave,” and throw dirt on his clothes which were, for the first time in Mosca’s life, nice. Voltore gets very aggravated and leaves.

1. disciplined : self control :: officious :
2. Why does Volpone suggest beating the “insolent slave” instead of just “Mosca?”
3. Through what techniques does the author portray Volpone’s personality?
4. Why does Mosca win the inheritance? Use this answer to compare Mosca to somebody who wins the lottery.
The scene now shifts to the Scrutineo. The four judges, the notary, the guards, Bonario, Celia, Corvino and Corbaccio enter. The sentencing hearing for Bonario and Celia is taking place. As the judges prepare to declare the sentence, Voltore and Volpone enter, Voltore driven to distraction by Volpone's teasing. He demands forgiveness from the judges, and from the "innocents" Bonario and Celia. He then begins to confess to the deceit that he and Mosca engineered earlier that day.
Corvino interrupts him, asking the judges to ignore Voltore, claiming that the lawyer acts out of pure jealousy over the fact that Mosca has inherited Volpone's fortune, now that Volpone is dead. Volpone's "death" takes the judges by surprise. Voltore insists that he is telling the truth, and hands over what seems to be a handwritten confession to the judges. The judges decide to send for Mosca, but cautiously, since they now believe that he may be Volpone's heir, and to insult would be a grave offence.
Volpone paces to and fro on the street. He realizes that his gloating has resulted in Voltore's confession. He curses himself for his "wantonness", his obsessive need to seek pleasure in everything, and hopes aloud that Mosca will help him out of this mess. He runs into Nano, Androgyno and Castrone, who tell him that Mosca told them to go play outside, and took the keys to the estate. Volpone begins to realize that Mosca may be looking to keep the estate for himself, and again curses his foolishness; he decides that he must try to must give Voltore "new hopes", in other words convince the lawyer that he could still inherit the estate, because Volpone is still alive.
Act V Scene XII
Cell 4

Back at the Scrutineo, the judges are thoroughly confused. Voltore and Celia maintain that Voltore is telling the truth, while Corvino continues to insist that Voltore is possessed by a demon. Volpone, still in disguise, enters, and informs the judges that the parasite (Mosca) will soon arrive, before turning to whisper in Voltore's ear. He tells Voltore that Mosca has informed him (the guard Volpone pretends to be) that Volpone still lives, and that the faked death was a test to determine Voltore's resolve.
Voltore realizes with chagrin that he has failed. But Volpone suggests that if Voltore corroborates Corvino's contention that he is possessed by falling to the ground and writhing on the floor, he may yet prove his loyalty; Voltore complies immediately. Volpone tells everyone to stand back, and ask them if they see the demon flying out of Voltore's mouth (there is, of course, no demon; it is another one of Volpone's
tricks). Voltore then asks "Where am I?", and claims that, though his confession is written in his handwriting, the contents of it are false.

Act V Scene XII
Cell 6

According to Voltore post-collapse, Mosca is just as innocent as Volpone— who, the lawyer goes on to assert, is not dead. Everything seems to be going well for Volpone, until Mosca enters. For Mosca
refuses to corroborate Voltore's claim that Volpone is alive. According to Mosca, the funeral preparations are underway as he speaks. Volpone is shocked. Mosca offers to help Volpone for half his fortune; Volpone says that he would rather "be hanged" than cut this deal. Volpone, still in disguise, asserts to the court that Volpone is alive, while under his breath acquiescing to Mosca's demand for half; but now Mosca will not accept even this offer.

Act V Scene XII
Cell 7
When Volpone insists that he is not dead, in direct contradiction of Mosca, he is taken away to be whipped for his insolence. Realizing that with a legal will in place, there is nothing else for him to do, Volpone reveals himself to the Senate. The judges realize that they have been deceived, and order Bonario and Celia to be let go. They condemn Mosca to life as a galley-slave for impersonating a nobleman of Venice, and send Volpone to prison. Voltore is disbarred, Corbaccio stripped of all his property (which is handed over to Bonario), and Corvino sentenced to public humiliation: he will be rowed through the canals of Venice, wearing donkey's ears. The scene ends with a polite request to the audience to show their appreciation for the play through their applause.