The Tragedy of Julius Caesar
Acts IV and V
Important Points To Be Analyzed
Act IV, scene ii
Critical Analysis Points
1. Use your gloss notes to paraphrase the following lines (p. 896—20-27):

“When love begins to sicken and decay
It useth an enforced ceremony.”

When love is dying, it uses a forced formality (i.e. it acts too formally). Dying love doesn’t have the natural feel to it that living love has.
2. These same lines (p. 896—20-27) illustrate a universal truth, which is known as a/an ____________.

“When love begins to sicken and decay
It useth an enforced ceremony.”

aphorism
3. “Judge me, you gods!” (line 38--p. 896) illustrates both an Imperative and an Apostrophe.
4. Cassius says, “Brutus, this sober form of yours hides wrongs” (line 40--p. 896). To what philosophy does Cassius refer when he discusses Brutus’ serious manner?

Stoicism
5. Why does Brutus tell Cassius to "speak [his] griefs softly" (line 43, p. 896)?

Brutus is a Stoic, so he doesn’t believe that his soldiers should witness Cassius and him having an emotional conflict. Instead, he wants for them both to go into his tent, where the others will not hear their argument.
6. Brutus tell Cassius to “speak [his] griefs softly” (line 43, p. 896). Why is the word “his” in brackets in the previous quote?

The original word “your” has been substituted with the pronoun “his” for the purpose of clarity.
Act IV, scene iii
Critical Analysis Points
7. The conflict that is introduced between Brutus and Cassius in scene ii of Act IV is the basis of the argument in scene iii. Why do Brutus and Cassius argue?

Cassius states that Brutus has accused Lucius Pella (a friend of Cassius’) of taking bribes (IV, iii, 3); however, Brutus replies that Cassius did not send him gold when he asked for it to pay his soldiers—so Brutus accuses Cassius of having “an itching palm” (IV, iii, 10).
8. When Brutus says, “Remember March, the ides of March remember” (IV, iii, 18), what syntactical device is he employing?

chiasmus
9. Why does Brutus say, “Remember March, the ides of March remember” (IV, iii, 18)?

He’s reminding Cassius of the noble reason they killed Caesar, hoping to encourage him that they need to behave nobly and not be involved in ignoble vices such as greed.
10. The reference to the ides of March in Act IV, scene iii, line 18 is known as a/an ___________________.

allusion
11. When Brutus asks, “Did not great Julius bleed for justice’ sake?”, what rhetorical device is he employing?

rhetorical question
12. According to Cassius, why should Brutus listen to his (Cassius’) advice? (See monologue at the bottom of 897, lines 29-32).

Cassius says that he is older than Brutus and has been a soldier longer than Brutus, so he is better able to manage affairs than Brutus.
13. Examine the following lines from Brutus’ angry monologue on p. 898, lines 42 to 49:

“Must I budge? / Must I observe you? Must I stand and crouch / under your testy humor?”

Why are the slashes included in the quotation?

The slashes indicate where the line breaks in the blank verse occur in Shakespeare’s original text.
14. In the same lines from Brutus’ angry monologue on p. 898, lines 42 to 49, what obvious rhetorical device is being employed by the underlined words?

“Must I budge? / Must I observe you? Must I stand and crouch / under your testy humor?”

anaphora
15. In line 85 (p. 899), Cassius says that “[a] friend should bear his friend’s infirmities.” Paraphrase this line.

Friends should be able to deal with each other’s weaknesses.
16. Is that same line an aphorism?

“A friend should bear his friend’s infirmities” (IV, iii, 85).

Definitely
17. When Cassius says “Come, Antony, and young Octavius, come, / Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius, / For Cassius is aweary of the world,” what rhetorical device does he employ in addressing Antony and Octavius, who are on the other side of the known world?

apostrophe
18. “Come, Antony, and young Octavius, come, / Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius, / For Cassius is aweary of the world.”

In this imperative that is also an apostrophe, what is that Cassius really desires?

He wishes to die because he’s so tired of living.
19. What does Cassius eventually admit to Brutus? (See line 103.)

Cassius admits that he denied Brutus gold.
20. In lines 117-123, on what (or whom) do Cassius and Brutus blame Cassius’ hot temper?

Cassius’ mother
21. Read carefully the following line that Brutus speaks to Cassius:

“Of your philosophy you make no use, if you give place to accidental evils.”

What does Cassius mean when he speaks this line to Brutus?

As a Stoic, Brutus believed that chance misfortunes should not disturb his peace of mind.
22. Why does Brutus’ announcement that Portia is dead impact Cassius so forcefully?

Cassius is Portia’s brother
23. What has happened to Cicero, who is Rome’s greatest orator, while Brutus and Cassius have been gone from Rome?

Cicero was murdered by Mark Antony and Octavius as part of their hit list (proscription). (See Act IV, scene iii, lines 172 to 178.)
24. On page 904 (Act IV, scene iii, lines 195-224), we see Brutus’ third major mistake in judgment. What is that mistake?

Brutus convinces Cassius that their armies should leave Sardis and meet the enemy’s armies at the halfway point (which is Philippi).
25. Carefully read the following imagery that Brutus uses in convincing Cassius to take their armies to Philippi:

“There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.”

Explain what Brutus means in this aphorism.

Brutus indicates that life offers certain perfect timing that will lead to good fortune; however, if that timing is not taken advantage of, the opportunity will be missed—and the rest of the “voyage of...life” will be miserable.
26. What is Shakespeare’s purpose (as far as characterization) for including the scene with Lucius (Act IV, scene iii, lines 251-273).

The scene with Lucius illustrates Brutus’ gentle side, presenting him as a caring master who cares for the young child in his care.
27. What is Shakespeare’s purpose in including the scene with Caesar’s ghost?

Shakespeare increases suspense by having the ghost foreshadow Brutus’ death.