



## **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

The following questions are suitable essay style questions, which pupils can answer once they have seen the production of *Twelfth Night* at the Globe.

- 1) Malvolio's final appearance in the performance at the Globe produced uproarious laughter from the audience. How far do you consider this laughter is deserved and how much sympathy should an audience feel for Malvolio's plight?
  
- 2) In the production at the Globe, Olivia is portrayed as a very forceful character. At one point she forces Viola/Cesario to the floor and straddles 'him' to show her love. To what extent do you agree with this portrayal of Olivia as a feisty and at times comic character?
  
- 3) Music in the production at the Globe makes a strong impact, punctuated with modern music as well as Feste's songs. What contribution do the words of Feste have to an audience's appreciation of *Twelfth Night*?
  
- 4) In the performance at the Globe, Sir Toby actually belched in Malvolio's face as he said 'thou art a steward' in a most demeaning way. How does Shakespeare use language as a weapon for characters to use against others in *Twelfth Night*?
  
- 5) In the production at the Globe, Malvolio's final appearance shows his fury at the way he has been treated. As he holds up the letter forged by Maria, he proclaims: 'You must not now deny it is your hand'. His lines in this scene are in verse showing his true feelings. Examine the way Shakespeare uses verse and prose in Malvolio's speeches.
  
- 6) In the article 'Some are born great...' by Nuria Gisbert in the programme for *Twelfth Night* and on the micro-site, there are comments by an actor who played Malvolio in an earlier production. He says 'What Malvolio learns during the course of the play is widely open to question'. What do you consider Malvolio learns during the play about himself, the people around him and the society he lives in?
  
- 7) In the article 'Love, loss, identity and the sea' by Dr Farah Karim-Cooper in the programme for *Twelfth Night* and on the microsite, the most sincere expression of love is made by Viola when, disguised as Cesario, she talks about her father's daughter who 'never told her love'. In the production, Viola's silent love for Orsino is contrasted with the forthright demonstration of the love shown for her by Olivia. What aspects of love in *Twelfth Night* do you consider make the most impact on an audience?



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8) In the performance at the Globe, the director began the play with the storm and then the arrival of Viola and the Captain before the audience saw the usual opening in Orsino's court. Examine the impact of the storm and shipwreck in the play.

9) In the performance at the Globe, Maria is played very much as a comic character. Is the character of Maria just a comic foil for Sir Toby and Sir Andrew's jokes or are there other aspects to her role in the play?