**Scene by Scene Questions**: Answer them thoughtfully and completely.

**PROLOGUE**

1. How does Marlowe’s characterization of Faustus as coming from parents “base of stock” illustrate Renaissance or humanist views?

2. What does the allusion to Icarus’s “waxen wings” in line 20 have to do with Faustus?

3. Why does Faustus prefer magic if salvation is his “chiefest bliss?” (according to the chorus)

**SCENE I**

1. Why does Dr. Faustus decide to “read no more” logic?

2. Discuss the significance of the doctor’s lament: “Yet art thou still but Faustus and a man.”

3. Analyze Faustus’ tone when he says “When all is done, divinity is best.”

4. Contrast Faustus’ proclamation “What will be, shall be! Divinity, adieu!” with the quotation above.

5. Why does Marlowe create the good and bad angel characters?

**SCENE II**

1. What is the fear of the two scholars?

**SCENE III**

1. Explain the irony when Dr. Faustus calls forth devils and then finds one “too ugly.”

2. Discuss the ambiguity when Mephostophilis says Faustus’ conjuring was the immediate, but not ultimate cause of the devil’s appearance?

3. Discuss the significance of Mephostophilis’ explanation for Lucifer’s fall.

4. What is the symbolic meaning of the bridge Dr. Faustus aims to build?

**SCENE IV**

1. What is the purpose, other than comic relief, of the scene between Wagner, Clown, and two devils?

2. What is the difference between the clowns’ goals for conjuring and Faustus’?

**SCENE V**

1. Explain Faustus’ use of metaphor in “The god thou serv’st is thine own appetite.”

2. What internal struggle is Faustus is illustrated by the reappearance of the good & bad angels?

3. What is the allegorical significance of Faustus signing his deed in blood? Why did his blood stop?

4. What is the inscription that appears on the doctor’s arm? Is it actual or a figment of his imagination?

5. What does Mephostophilis mean when he exclaims, “All places shall be hell that is not heaven!” What is the irony in this line?

6. Why can’t Mephostophilis provide Faustus with a wife? Why is this limitation significant?

**SCENE VI**

1. Describe Dr. Faustus’ feelings at the beginning of scene VI.

2. What reason does Faustus give for not repenting?

3. Why won’t Mephostophilis name the maker of the world? What similarity exists between this

situation and the devil’s inability to provide a wife?

4. What threat does the bad angel use to keep Faustus from repenting?

5. Faustus watches a show of the Seven Deadly Sins. Of which of these is he guilty?

**SCENE VII**

1. How is Faustus’ behavior different now, as represented by the practical jokes he plays, than it was before? Before Faustus is given these magical powers, how would he have treated the Pope?

2. What does the behavior of Faustus and Mephistophilis demonstrate?

3. For what specific offense does Dr. Faustus strike the Pope? Why does the Pope’s action so insult and enrage Dr. Faustus?

4. Explain the irony in the “excommunication” (a.k.a. funeral dirge) scene.

**CHORUS**

1. What does the chorus tell us happens when Faustus returns?

2. What is the purpose of the chorus?

**SCENE IX**

1. In this comic relief scene, Robin and Ralph fool the Vintner by conjuring a cup. What might

Marlowe be insinuating about Dr. Faustus’ actions in the previous scenes?

2. What might the author be saying when the two clowns are so easily able to conjure Mephostophilis?

**SCENE X**

1. What information does the Emperor wish to possess? Who does he specifically mention?

2. What is the purpose of the knight’s asides?

3. Why does Charles V ask Dr. Faustus to conjure Alexander the Great and his Paramour?

4. What does the Emperor request of Faustus? How do we know the Emperor respects Faustus?

**SCENE XI**

1. To what human weakness does the Horse-courser fall victim? How does this “fool” parallel Faustus?

2. Discuss the symbolism in the Horse-courser’s plight as well as in Faustus’ leg being ripped off.

3. When the Horse-courser says Faustus “does not stand much upon that” (his leg), what might the clown be saying about Faustus’ sense of substance? How does such imagery address the broader theme of reality versus illusion?

**SCENE XII**

1. How might the “enchanted castle in the air” erected by Faustus be metaphoric?

2. Faustus refers to the Duchess’s pregnancy and cravings. Why does Marlowe discuss this here?

**SCENE XIV**

1. Why do the scholars wish to see Helen of Troy?

2. What is the allegorical role played by the old man in this scene?

3. What threat does Mephostophilis use once again when Faustus considers repentance? Cite the

devil’s words directly.

4. Two rhetorical questions contemplate the power of Helen’s beauty:

*“Was this fair Helen, whose admired worth Made Greece*

*with ten years’ wars afflict poor Troy?”*

*“Was this the face that launched a thousand ships*

*And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?”*

What links to Faustus’ own situation are made with these questions?

**SCENE XVI**

1. To whom has Faustus left his worldly goods? Discuss the significance of this choice.

2. What role do the three scholars play in this scene?

3. What metaphor does Faustus recall when he says, “I writ them a bill with mine own blood?”

4. What reason does Faustus give the scholars when they ask why he never asked for help or prayer?

5. What line from this scene suggests Faustus was a victim of fate?

6. Explain the good angel’s use of “world” when he says “Innumerable joys…did’st love the world.”

7. What evidence tells the Scholars that Faustus has descended to hell?

8. What reasons do they give for granting Faustus a Christian burial?

9. Some critics assert that this scene is ambiguous, and that Faustus may have been saved. Why might they think this? Discuss your reactions.