

Othello

Act 5

Analysis of Scene 1

This scene confirms Iago's villainy. His ability to manipulate Roderigo and then kill him, makes him worthy of the title "inhuman dog". His despicable attitude to Bianca stems from his distrust of all women, a result of his suspicious nature. Emilia admits that she has never deceived Iago, but offers possible reasons why women may commit adultery, highlighting that men do not need a reason to be jealous – "Jealous souls will not be answered so. They are not ever jealous for the cause, but jealous for they are jealous," Act3, scene 4, Line 153.

Scene 1

Roderigo admits that he has no desire to kill Cassio but has been convinced by Iago.

Iago's soliloquy – lines 11 to 22:

- Confirms his contemptible nature, yet he ironically sees Roderigo as contemptible
- Confirms his deception of Roderigo
- Confirms his jealousy of Cassio, "He hath a daily beauty in his life that makes me ugly". This line sums up the sense of inferiority that fuelled Iago's plan to destroy everything good that he saw

Iago attacks Roderigo, who sums up Iago's nature – "O inhuman dog!" Line 63.

Iago blames Bianca for the death of Roderigo and Cassio's injuries – Line 85, "I do suspect this trash to be a party in this injury." He displays a misogynistic attitude in his willingness to blame her for something she has not done, because she looks guilty in his eyes – L108 and is a prostitute – L116, "This is the fruits of whoring".

TASK

Iago's misogynistic attitude stems only from a suspicious mind. It is this trait that causes his jealousy towards everything that has "a daily beauty" and which drives the tragedy.

In an essay of 400 to 450 words discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement.