The following questions will aid you in preparation for the unit test. Careful examination of the questions is strongly encouraged!!

Prologue (1-99)

1. Briefly analyze the characterization of these two women in the prologue. What is Antigone going to do and how does she feel about it. What is Ismene’s advice and how does she feel about Antigone’s actions?

2. What is Ismene’s view of the relationship between men and women?

3. What dramatic purpose does the character of Ismene serve?

4. How old do you think Antigone is? Why

Parados Strophe 1 and Antistrophe 1: Song of Victory (100-161)

5. Summarize in a general way in one or two sentences what the Chorus is describing.

6. “Panoply of Argos” (109) refers in a collective sense to the Argive army which supported Polyneices in his attack on Thebes. Which side in the war does the Chorus favor and why?

Scene 1 (162-331)

7. Creon in his first appearance in the play delivers a long speech outlining the philosophy that guides his actions and his edict (162-210). What human institution does Creon believe to be most important in life?

8. Compare his beliefs with those of Antigone.

9. How does Creon treat the Guard? What does this say about his character?

10. What are some of the assumptions Creon makes about gender?
Ode 1: Ode to Man (332-372)

11. To whom is the Chorus referring in the last stanza of the ode when it sings: “Honored is he; dishonored, the man whose reckless heart / Shall make him join hands with sin: / May I not think like him, Nor may such an impious man / Dwell in my house” (370-4).

12. Who appears on stage immediately after this ode? Connect the appearance of this character with what the chorus sings in the last stanza of the “Ode to Man.”

Scene 2 (373-581)

13. Why is Creon so surprised with the Guard brings in Antigone?

14. How does Antigone defend her defiance of the edict (450-455)? And what is significant about Antigone’s second burial of the body?

15. What is Antigone’s attitude with regard to Ismene’s attempt to share responsibility for the deed (537-560)?

16. What does Ismene mean when she says line 558?

Scene 3 (626-780)

17. How does Haemon originally feel about Antigone? Or what does he tell his father?

18. How would the Athenian audience have received Creon’s statement to his son Haemon regarding the laws of the city?

19. How does the Chorus view his statements?

20. According to Haemon, what is the reaction of the common people to Creon’s decree of death for Antigone (687-700)?

21. What advice does Haemon give to Creon (701-11)?

22. What is the point that Haemon is attempting to make to Creon by the analogies of the tree and ship (712-17)?
23. Creon disagrees with Haemon. Why? He changes his mind about how Antigone should die. Is his reasoning sound?

**Ode 3: Ode to Love (781-800)**

24. The ancient Greeks had three words for love: philia meaning something like friendship; eros which has more to do with passion; and agape, a spiritual love. When the chorus talks about “love” which of the three do they mean? Why do you think this?

25. Since choral odes generally comment upon the action of the previous episode, explain what connection this song has with the preceding scene.

**Scene 4 (801-943)**

26. What new side of Antigone’s character do we see (806-882)?

27. Is Antigone’s faith in the gods wavering here? (922-24) How do you know this, and what does it say about her character and stance?

**Scene 5 (988-1114)**

28. The fifth scene brings the appearance of the blind prophet Teiresias. What omens does he report? What do these omens mean (1023-33; 1064-90)?

29. What is Creon’s initial reaction to Teiresias’ report (1033-1047)?

30. How is this reaction characteristic of Creon (280-303)?

31. Why does Creon finally change his mind about Teiresias (1095-7; 1091-94)?

32. What course of action does the Chorus recommend to Creon (1098-1101)?

33. What is Creon’s reaction to this recommendation (1105-1106; 1108-12)?

34. What has Creon learned about law (1113-4)?

**Hymn of Praise (1115-1151)**

35. Why in the hymn of praise does the Chorus choose to pray to Dionysus at this critical moment rather than to any other god?
36. What request does it make to the god (1140-42)?

37. Why is it relevant that this rather upbeat and positive tone is placed where it is in the play?

**Exodos (1155-end)**

38. Is the prayer of the Chorus in the hymn of praise answered positively or negatively in the exodos? Why?

39. Why do you think that Creon goes to bury Polyneices first rather than to Antigone’s cave, as he said he was going to do in his previous scene?

40. What does Creon find when he arrives at the cave?

41. What is the result of Creon’s confrontation with Haemon (1225-43)?

42. Why did Eurydice commit suicide (1301-05)?

43. What moral lesson does the Chorus see in the fate of Creon at the close of the play (1348-end)?

44. Is Creon a tragic figure? Do you feel sympathy for him at the end as someone who initially tried to do what was right yet was overwhelmed by circumstance, or do you believe that he is a bullying, misogynistic control-freak who gets what he deserves?

45. Could the play have been called Creon instead?

46. Do you think Antigone is a tragic figure? If so, what tragic characteristics does she have? If not, why not?