



2025-26 1ère BFI English Language & Literature

**Non-Fiction Reading Comprehension & Reflection Questions:**  
***Shakespeare on Toast***

1. What do you think Crystal's overall purpose is? Why?
2. How would you describe Crystal's writing style? Explain using evidence from the text.
3. Why is "determining the 'authentic' text of *Hamlet*" so complicated?
4. Why does Crystal consider Shakespeare's use of iambic pentameter to be "metrical genius"?
5. In what ways did the theatre-going public in Shakespeare's England differ from modern audiences?

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6. How does Crystal use contemporary analogies (such as comparing Shakespeare to modern musicians) to explain Shakespeare's literary impact? Do you find these comparisons effective?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Crystal suggests that Shakespeare's plays endure because they "explore what it is to be human." What examples from *Hamlet* does he use to demonstrate this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. After reading *Shakespeare on Toast*, to what extent has your view of Shakespeare's writing changed? Explain.