**Act I**

1. Why are the suppliants burning incense and singing at Apollo’s shrine and other locations throughout Thebes?
2. What do the suppliants expect from Oedipus?
3. What was the Sphinx? How is she important to this story?
4. Identify the following characters:
   1. Tieresias
   2. Jocasta
   3. Creon
   4. Laius
   5. Polybus
   6. Merope
   7. Shepherd
   8. Messenger
   9. Chorus
5. Who travels to Delphi to learn how to save Thebes?
6. What is the result of the visit to Delphi? What news does the character bring back to Oedipus about ways to save the city?
7. Briefly summarize the promise that Oedipus made to the people of Thebes regarding the murderer of Laius?
8. How is this promise ironic?
9. Why does Tieresias originally refuse to tell Oedipus who is responsible for the murder of Laius?
10. How does Oedipus offend Tieresias and the gods?
11. Briefly summarize the prophecy Tieresias delivered to Oedipus. Be sure to cover the entire prophesy.
12. Why does Oedipus believe that Tieresias and Creon were guilty of treason?
13. How does Creon defend himself against Oedipus’ accusations?
14. What is Creon’s punishment?
15. Why does Jocasta refuse to believe in prophesies?

**Act II**

1. What is Oedipus’ reaction to hearing that Laius was killed were three highways meet?
2. Why did Oedipus run away from Corinth so many years ago?
3. How does Jocasta react to the news of King Polybus’ death? Why does she react this way?
4. How did Polybus die?
5. When Oedipus reveals his prophesy to the messenger, the messenger tries to ease Oedipus’ mind about his birth. What news does the messenger share with Oedipus about his relationship to the King and Queen of Corinth?
6. Why is this news ironic?
7. It is at this point that Jocasta understands fully that the prophesy she and her husband receives from the Oracle before Oedipus’ birth did, in fact, come true. How did she react?
8. Why does Jocasta encourage Oedipus to forget about questioning the old shepherd?
9. Jocasta runs inside the palace after calling Oedipus miserable and encouraging him to stop searching for answers. What does Oedipus believe she is upset about?

**Act III**

1. How did the shepherd and the messenger from Corinth know one another?
2. Where was the infant Oedipus found?
3. Why was the infant sent away from the palace at Thebes?
4. Why did the shepherd decide not to kill the infant?
5. What did Jocasta do after she ran inside the palace?
6. Why does Oedipus run into the palace, yelling for Jocasta and a sword?
7. How does Oedipus punish himself for killing his father and marrying his mother?
8. Many readers question why Oedipus did not do as Jocasta had done at this point. Why would Oedipus choose to punish himself in this manner instead of ending his life at the knowledge of what he had done?
9. What is Oedipus’ greatest concern at the end of the story?

34. What is Oedipus’ hamartia?

35. How does Oedipus’ tragic flaw lead to the horrible events depicted in Oedipus Rex?

36. Identify the following as they pertain to Oedipus Rex:

1. Anagnorisis
2. Peripeteia
3. Catastrophe
4. Catharsis