EXTENDED RESPONSE

Closely read the following excerpt from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*.

*Takes the skull*   
    Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio: a fellow   
    of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy: he hath   
    borne me on his back a thousand times; and now, how   
    abhorred in my imagination it is! my gorge rims at   
    it. Here hung those lips that I have kissed I know   
    not how oft. Where be your gibes now? your   
    gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment,   
    that were wont to set the table on a roar? Not one   
    now, to mock your own grinning? quite chap-fallen?   
    Now get you to my lady's chamber, and tell her, let   
    her paint an inch thick, to this favour she must   
    come; make her laugh at that. Prithee, Horatio, tell   
    me one thing.

Source: "Hamlet." *- Act 5, Scene 1 by William Shakespeare*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2013.

Based on your reading, respond to the following prompt:

From this passage, address the symbolism of Yorick’s skull. Include the effects of Shakespeare’s word choices and any figurative language used.

CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE:

Select TWO of the following to answer completely and thoroughly, citing text evidence and examples to support your ideas. Please use proper mechanics, structure, spelling, and conventions. Begin with the letter of your selected prompt for your essays.

A. Discuss the character of Polonius. What were his underlying motivations? Is he successful? Explain.

B. Discuss the character of Gertrude. Is she trustworthy? How did she and King Hamlet feel about each other (support with text evidence)? Does she truly love her son and desire for him to eventually be king, or is she more selfish? Explain and support.

C. Discuss all facets of Hamlet’s character, even his weaknesses. Is he genuinely insane? If not, why does he pretend to be? Is he successful?

D. Analyze the character of Ophelia. What are her hidden motives, if any? Is she an honest person? Explain. Does she love Hamlet?