**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Write an analytical essay focusing on the following prompt. Make sure to include specific citations to support your answer. In your conclusion, comment on the relevance of the play, if any, in our lives today.

Hamlet says to Guildenstern,

*Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You would play upon me, you would seem to know my stops, you would pluck out the heart of my mystery.* (3.2.393-397)

Interestingly, we would also dare to know “mystery” of Hamlet’s heart because it marks the essence of his character, as it ultimately does for all of us. Using specific references to the play, explore the mystery of Hamlet’s character, drawing conclusions as to who he is.

Find quotes to support your answer. Write them below.

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B. Does Hamlet think too much? At times, he berates himself for trying to think things through (“Thus conscience does make cowards of us all” 3.1.91), while at other times, he seems to stress the importance of reasoned judgment (“Give me that man /That is not passion’s slave, and I will wear him /In my heart’s core” (3.2.76-78). Using specific references to the play, determine what conclusions can be drawn regarding the use of “reasoned judgment.”

C. Hamlet says to Horatio, If it be now, „tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come. The readiness is all. (5.2.234-237) At last in the play, Hamlet is certain of something in his life: death comes to all. This understanding, however, comes to him after many uncertainties hold him in their grip. Using specific references to the play, explain how and for what purpose Shakespeare develops the theme that certainty in life is impossible.