Name _____ Tragedy

Hamlet: A Revenge Tragedy

1. What obstacle(s) does Hamlet face to enacting revenge on Claudius? Explain.

2. Shakespeare did not invent the revenge tragedy. However, he did turn the genre on its head with his approach to it in Hamlet, and introduce a philosophical dimension to the revenge tragedy that was not there before. What kinds of philosophical questions does Hamlet provoke the audience to ask?

3. In Hamlet, Shakespeare ridicules the revenge tragedies that have come before it. Why do you think he did this?

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