

## Questions for listening comprehension / research

### Episode "Sex and the City"

transcript:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/shakespeares-restless-world/transcripts/sexandthecity/>

1. What and where is the Rialto? (→ research needed)
2. Identify the quote – in which scene in the *Merchant of Venice* is it said? Who says it? (Merchant of Venice 1.3.15-26 ; Shylock)
3. How did Venice become so successful in trade?
4. Where do the materials for the glass come from? (list countries and materials)
5. Which nations traded in Venice?
6. How were they organised in the city?
7. How much religious freedom was there?
8. Compare Shakespeare's depiction of Venice to a) historical reality (less interaction between different nationalities/religions) b) to historical London
9. What role does the law play in Venice?
10. Why were foreigners treated comparatively well?
11. Who was the glass most likely made for?
12. Which association is made here to a scene in the Merchant of Venice?
13. Who does the presenter compare the lady on the glass to?
14. What does he find intriguing about the outward appearance of Venetian women at the time?
15. How strict were social rules in Venice?
16. Could Shakespeare's Venetian plays (MoV / Othello) have worked if they had been set in 16th century England? Why (not)?

### Episode: "From London to Marrakech"

transcript: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/shakespeares-restless-world/transcripts/fromlondontomarrakech/>

1. Who named Elizabeth I. "the Sultana Isabel"?
2. Place the quotes within the play. Who speaks? (Merchant of Venice 2.1.1-3, Merchant of Venice 2.7.55-7; Prince of Morocco)
3. Why would the prince have known about English coins?
4. Why would the audience have expected him to choose the golden casket?
5. Are the coins older or younger than *The Merchant of Venice*?
6. How did the English trade with Morocco?
7. Why was Morocco more important to England than the other way around?
8. When did this change?
9. What did the visit of the Moroccan ambassador (in 1600) mean to Londoners?

10. In how far did the opinions held by the court and by people in the street differ?
11. What was the meaning of 'moor' in Elizabethan times?
12. How does Shakespeare deal with this in Othello?
13. Is there anything remarkable about vocal aspects of the quote "Wherein I spake of most disastrous chances..."? How do the presenters suggest this is a foreigner speaking?
14. What was the role of piracy?
15. What happened to the hostages? Which comparison to today does the presenter suggest?
16. What united Morocco and England?
17. Which goods did they exchange?
18. What is the conclusion about Othello the presenter draws?

### **Episode: "England Goes Global"**

transcript:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/shakespeares-restless-world/transcripts/englandgoesglobal/>

1. Which 20<sup>th</sup> century historical event does the presenter compare Francis Drake's voyage to?
2. Which route did Francis Drake take?
3. Identify the quotes.
4. Which was the name of his ship?
5. When did the journey end?
6. How long did it take?
7. When was the first map publicly displayed? Why so late?
8. What is the purpose of the medal?
9. What is historically wrong about it?
10. Where did the silver for the medal (probably) come from?
11. Explain the joke with the kitchen maid.
12. What does "the augmentation of the Indies" mean?
13. What were these kinds of maps used for?
14. Why does the presenter think "Globe Theatre" was such an original choice of name?