Explication de texte

Explication de faits de langue
Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte.
[Enter CARDINAL, DUCHESS, and CARIOLA.]

CARDINAL [To the DUCHESS] We are to part from you, and your own discretion Must now be your director.

FERDINAND You are a widow: You know already what man is; and therefore Let not youth, high promotion, eloquence—

CARDINAL No, nor anything without the addition, honor, Sway your high blood.

FERDINAND Marry? They are the most luxurious Will wed twice.

CARDINAL Oh, fie!

FERDINAND Their livers are more spotted Than Laban's sheep.

DUCHESS Diamonds are of most value, They say, that have passed through most jewelers' hands.

FERDINAND Whores, by that rule, are precious.

DUCHESS Will you hear me? I'll never marry.

CARDINAL So most widows say; But commonly that motion lasts no longer Than the turning of an hourglass—the funeral sermon And it end both together.

FERDINAND Now hear me: You live in a rank pasture here, i'th'court. There is a kind of honeydew that's deadly; 'Twill poison your fame. Look to't. Be not cunning, For they whose faces do belie their hearts Are witches ere they arrive at twenty years— Ay, and give the devil suck.

DUCHESS This is terrible good counsel.

FERDINAND Hypocrisy is woven of a fine small thread, Subtler than Vulcan's engine; yet, believe't Your darkest actions—nay, your privat'st thoughts— Will come to light.

CARDINAL You may flatter yourself And take your own choice, privately be married Under the eaves of night.

FERDINAND Think't the best voyage That e'er you made, like the irregular crab, Which, though't goes backward, thinks that it goes right Because it goes its own way. But observe: Such weddings may more properly be said To be executed than celebrated.

CARDINAL The marriage night Is the entrance into some prison.

FERDINAND And those joys,
Those lustful pleasures, are like heavy sleeps
Which do forerun man's mischief.
CARDINAL Fare you well.
Wisdom begins at the end—remember it. [Exit.]
 DUCHESS I think this speech between you both was studied,
It came so roundly off.
FERDINAND You are my sister. 320
[Showing his dagger.] This was my father's poniard. Do you see?
I'd be loath to see't look rusty, 'cause 'twas his.
I would have you to give o'er these chargeable revels:
A visor and a mask are whispering-rooms That were ne'er built for goodness. Fare ye well—
And women like that part which, like the lamprey, Hath ne'er a bone in't.
DUCHESS Fie, sir!
FERDINAND Nay, I mean the tongue—variety of courtship:
What cannot a neat knave with a smooth tale Make a woman believe? Farewell, lusty widow. [Exit.] 330
DUCHESS Shall this move me? If all my royal kindred Lay in my way unto this marriage,
I'd make them my low footsteps; and even now—
Even in this hate—as men in some great battles, By apprehending danger, have achieved 335
Almost impossible actions—I have heard soldiers say so—
So I, through frights and threat'nings, will assay
This dangerous venture. Let old wives report
I winked and chose a husband.—Cariola, To thy known secrecy I have given up
More than my life: my fame. 340
CARIOLA Both shall be safe;
For I'll conceal this secret from the world
As warily as those that trade in poison
Keep poison from their children.
DUCHESS Thy protestation
Is ingenious and hearty. I believe it. 345
Is Antonio come?