These notes will help you prepare for the 50 question multiple choice portion of the test (50 total points of the test grade). You will also have two short open-response questions (TAKS-style) that will be worth 25 points each (50 total points of the test grade).

**Act I**
1. In Act I, Scene i, Flavius and Marullus try to disrupt the festivities because they resent the defeat and murder of Pompey.
2. The Lupercal footrace takes place in Act I, Scene i, and serves as part of the exposition.
3. It is helpful to know when Lupercal takes place because it establishes the time setting, which will take on significance in the next scene.
4. Combined with the actions of Cassius, the soothsayer’s warning suggests that Caesar will be overthrown.
5. Shakespeare distinguished commoners from noblemen in his play by having commoners speak in prose.
6. In Act I, Scene ii, Cassius characterizes Caesar as weak and gentle.
7. Casca’s description of Caesar’s behavior when he is offered the crown in Act I, Scene ii, suggests that Caesar owes his success most of all to his manipulation of the masses.
8. The noblemen react to the people’s approval of Caesar disapprovingly.
9. The purpose of a paraphrase is to restate a passage in one’s own words.

10. Restate the following passage in your own words:
   
   Men at some time are masters of their fates:
   [140] The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,48 But in ourselves, that we are underlings.49

11. The image of Cassius with a lean and hungry look is meant to convey a sense of suspicion and distrust.
12. At the beginning of Scene ii, Casca and Cicero are discussing the troubling events of the unusually violent thunderstorm.
13. The Roman attitude toward suicide expressed by Cassius and Casca in Act I, Scene iii is that it is an honorable alternative to disgrace.
14. Caesar wanted to blame anything he had done wrong on his infirmity, or medical condition.

**Act II**
1. When Brutus delivers a soliloquy in his orchard at the beginning of Act II, he is justifying his decision to attack Caesar.
2. Brutus’ motivation for joining the conspiracy is he wants to protect Rome against tyranny.
3. When Brutus says, “And therefore think him as a serpent’s egg/Which hatched, would as his kind grow mischievous,/And kill him in the shell,” he is explaining why the conspirators must act now.
4. Brutus’ image of Caesar as a snake suggests the danger of tyranny.
5. As the conspirators enter Brutus’ house, he says, “Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough/to mask thy monstrous visage? Seek none, conspiracy/Hide it in smiles and affability.” In this speech, Brutus expresses his mixed emotions about the plot to kill Caesar.
6. The conspirators finally agree not to attack Antony because they fear turning public opinion against them.
7. The conspirators want Caesar to go to the Senate House so they can kill him.
8. When Caesar appears in Act II, Scene ii, he seems to be trusting and dignified.
9. In Acts I and II, the reports of strange occurrences in Rome create an atmosphere that is foreboding, ominous, and threatening.
10. Calpurnia asks Caesar not to go to the Senate because she believes her frightening dreams are omens.
11. Caesar says, “Cowards die many times before their deaths;/The valiant never taste of death but once.” This line means that death is inevitable but fear is a choice.
12. The many warnings to Caesar create suspense in Act II.
13. The fact that the reader, but not Caesar, knows that his “friends” plan to kill him makes Caesar appear vulnerable.

**Act III**
1. The conspirators ask Caesar to pardon Publius Cimber in Act III because they want to divert Caesar’s attention from the assassination.
2. In Caesar’s last few speeches, when he refuses to pardon Publius Cimber, his tone is proud and arrogant.
3. When Antony first shakes hands with the conspirators, it suggests that he knows nothing about the assassination.
4. As he stabs Caesar, Casca cries “Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!”
5. Paraphrase this passage from Scene i.

   **ANTONY** O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
   [255] That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
   Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
   That ever livèd in the tide of times.
   Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!

6. When Antony delivers a dramatic speech over Caesar’s body, he is alone onstage. A speech delivered under these circumstances is called a soliloquy.
7. Antony’s true feelings about the conspirators are first revealed in his soliloquy over Caesar’s body.
8. Brutus allows Antony to speak at Caesar’s funeral for the following reasons: Brutus intends to speak first, Antony has been told what he can and cannot say, and Brutus thinks proper rites for Caesar will please the people.
9. Antony’s true purpose in delivering the funeral speech is to cause unrest over Caesar’s assassination.
10. In his oration, Antony shows that the conspirators were not honorable by contrasting Caesar’s deeds with the reasons for the assassination.
11. Paraphrases the following lines:

   When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept;
   Ambition should be made of sterner stuff.

12. Antony points to the wounds on Caesar’s body and the tears in his cloak and identifies whose dagger made each one in order to emphasize the treachery involved and to make each conspirator personally responsible for Caesar’s death.
13. Antony’s speeches in Act III reveal he is a loyal and clever supporter of Caesar.
14. The news that is reported to Antony at the end of Scene i is that Octavius has arrived in Rome.
15. The purpose of Scene iii, in which a group of plebeians attacks Cinna the poet, is to show Mob rule now governs.
16. The impression Shakespeare gives of the plebeians in Act III is they are fickle and easily manipulated.
17. An oration is a formal speech usually given at a ceremony.
18. The basic difference between the two funeral orations Brutus is rational in his claim; Antony is fiery and emotional.