

## Worksheet 5 – Act 1, Scene 2: Othello is summoned by the Duke

### Review: Lecture 4

- ✓ In Act 1, Scene 1, Iago said he would show to Othello 'a flag and sign of love,/ Which is indeed but sign'. What did Iago mean by this phrase?

### Recall: Lecture 5

**Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember about the lecture and the play.**

1. In this scene, Othello gives Cassio some information about his family. What is it?
2. What news does Cassio bring to Othello in Act 1, Scene 2?

### Analysis

3. What is your impression of Othello as a character? Choose three lines (or more) of his which you feel convey his character to the audience.
4. In his lecture, Prof. McRae argues that 'it's really important that, visually, Othello be big, imposing, powerful – that he seem invincible [...] and Iago is sort of scampering around him and winking to audience'.
  - a) Look at the three images below from different productions of *Othello*. Do they fit the contrast between Othello and Iago that McRae describes?
  - b) Which image comes closest to the impression of Othello and Iago that you have got from the play so far? Explain your reasoning.



1 Laurence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh as Othello and Iago respectively, in the 1995 film version of *Othello*.



2 Iago (Antony Sher) and Othello (Sello Maake Ka-Ncube) in the RSC's 2004 production.



3 Hugh Quarshie as Othello and Lucian Msamati as Iago in the 2015 RSC production.

### Evaluation

5. In Act 1, Scene 1, Iago said he would show to Othello ‘a flag and sign of love,/ Which is indeed but sign’. What evidence is there in Act 1, Scene 2 that the theme of deception is being continued? *Write your answer as an analytical paragraph, including quotations from the text.*

### Glossary

- **Mercenary** - a professional soldier hired to serve in a foreign army (as opposed to someone enlisted by their own country to fight).
- **Subsume** – include or absorb one thing into another.  
*e.g. Most of these ideas can be subsumed under two broad categories.*