

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____ Film Study 1

Casablanca – Study Guide

1. What is life like in Casablanca? What does the “friendly” man say about the people in Casablanca?
2. What has happened to two German couriers? Why is what they were carrying so valuable?
3. How do Rick and Captain Renault get along? What understanding does each have with the other?
4. Rick says he is an isolationist and that he doesn’t get involved in the affairs of others, but Captain Renault reveals two things that Rick has done in his past that contradict Rick’s rule of isolationism. Explain what two things Rick did and what they reveal about his character.

| What did Rick do? | What does it reveal about his character? |
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5. Who is more powerful in Casablanca: Captain Renault or Major Strasser? Why?
6. Who is Victor Laszlo and why is he of importance to Major Strasser?

7. Study the close-up of Ilsa. Describe how the cinematographer photographs her.



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8. What is Ilsa's and Rick's reaction when each hears Sam play "As Time Goes By"?

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| <u>Rick's reaction:</u> | <u>Ilsa's reaction:</u> |
| How does the camera track his reaction? | How does the camera track her reaction? |
| What shots and angles are used? | What shots and angles are used? |

9. What does Rick do after Ilsa and Victor leave? Why is this significant?

10. Rick and Ilsa were in love in Paris. What happened to Paris and their love?

11. The long flashback in Paris reveals a very different side of Rick and Ilsa. Compare this montage to romantic sequences you have seen in other films. How is the mood created? What is the effect on you?

12. What does Captain Renault want in return for helping couples, especially from women?

13. Rick helps a young couple at his own expense. Notice the use of reaction shots to comment on his action. Why does he perform this unusual act of generosity at this point in the story?

****14. What does the subplot of the young couple contribute to the film? (Answer after you've finished the film.)****

15. Laszlo leads a chorus of the French national anthem over the voices of the German officers. How is the feeling built up? What does the scene tell us about Laszlo, the refugees, and Rick at this point?

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16. What does Rick tell Renault to do to get Victor arrested? Why do you think he does it?

17. Who does Rick sell his café to and what are the arrangements? What does this tell you about Rick as a boss, a friend, and a person?

18. Why does Rick make Ilsa go with Victor?

19. When Captain Renault throws away the bottle of Vichy Water, what does that signify?

20. The final scene is famous for many filmmaking techniques, among them the use of lighting, music, camera work, dialogue, and acting styles. Take one of these elements and explain how it contributes to the **atmosphere** and **tension** of the film's climactic moment.

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