HAMLET CRITICS

GHOST
John Wilson - “The ghost is the linchpin of the play

CLAUDIUS
Wilson Knight - “Claudius shows every sign of being an excellent diplomat and King”
Arnold - “Claudius’ soliloquy gives the impression of rhetorical pageantry rather than sincere contrition”
Richard D Altick - “The cunning and lecherousness of Claudius’ evil has corrupted the whole kingdom of Denmark”

OPHELIA
Edwards - “We can imagine Hamlet’s story without Ophelia, but Ophelia literally has no story without Hamlet”
Showalter - “Ophelia is deprived of thought, sexuality and language”
Rogers - “In Shakespeare’s society, the ideal female is cherished for her youth, beauty and purity”
Charney - “Through madness, Ophelia suddenly makes a forceful assertion of her being”
Showalter - “Hamlet’s madness is associated with intellectual and imaginative genius but Ophelia’s affliction is erotomania, or love madness”

POLONIUS
Smith - “Polonius seems to love his children; he seems to have the welfare of the kingdom in mind. His means of action however, are totally corrupt”

HAMLET
Mack - “Hamlet is privileged in madness to say things”
Newell - “Hamlet is motivated by reason an untouched by passion”
Sutcliffe - “Hamlet is supposed to be a hero who occupies centre stage but he spends most of the play watching himself as a hero doing nothing”
Bloom - “Despite the urgings of Freud, the Hamlet complex is not incestuous but theatrical”
Belsey - “Revenge is not justice. It is rather and act of injustice on behalf of justice”
Wilson Knight - “Hamlet is an element of evil in the state of Denmark”
Coleridge - “Hamlet is obliged to act on the spur of the moment”
Lee - “Hamlet talks more than any other character in Shakespeare”