

The Man in the Iron Mask by Alexandre Dumas

1 Student's own answers. Any answers are acceptable as long as reasons are given e.g. the mask is because he is a dangerous prisoner like Hannibal Lecter; or someone who is badly disfigured like the Phantom of the Opera. Students might speculate that the man is young as the face in the picture is unlined. They might think that the story is of him being saved from prison or escaping and being recaptured.

2

The four friends	
Their country	France
Their names	Aramis, Athos, D'Artagnan, Porthos
Their job	soldiers in the King's Musketeers
Their 'promise'	'All for one, and one for all!'
The meaning of their promise in your language	Student's own answer.

- 3 (a) My name is Philippe.
 (b) I am twenty-three years old.
 (c) My mother is Queen Anne.
 (d) I am the King's brother/twin brother.

4

1	2	3
D'Artagnan	Chief Minister of Finance	wants to arrest Fouquet
Aramis	King of France	wants to be Chief Minister of Finance
Colbert	Bishop of Vannes	doesn't like the King
Fouquet	Second Minister of Finance	will always fight for the King
Louis	captain of the King's Musketeers	wants to be Pope in Rome

5 He was the huge man who helped to kidnap the real king and take him to the Bastille. (This is not said directly, but see the first sentence after the text break on page 29 for confirmation: 'Aramis and Porthos drove away from the Bastille in the carriage'.)

6

New title	Correct title
The End of the Musketeers	The Last Musketeer
D'Artagnan, the Prisoner	Belle-Isle
'I am your son'	The Brothers
Commands for D'Artagnan	The Meetings at Nantes
Louis Plans His Revenge	The Bishop's Plot
Battle on Belle-Isle	Escape
Aramis's Plan Fails	Fouquet Learns the Secret

7 Student's own answer. Details needed: King Louis XIII and Queen Anne had twin sons. One is Louis XIV and the other, Philippe, was kept first in a house in the country and then in the Bastille to prevent fighting over who was to be king. Aramis visited Philippe in prison and told him who he was. He got Fouquet to sign a paper releasing a prisoner, Seldon, from the Bastille. Fouquet signed the paper because he wanted to borrow millions of francs from Aramis. Aramis made Baisemeaux, the governor of the prison, drunk. When a servant brought the order to release Seldon, Aramis exchanged the papers so that a prisoner called Machiali (Philippe) was released.

Later, Aramis kidnapped King Louis from Fouquet's house, took him to the Bastille and told Baisemeaux that the wrong prisoner had been released, i.e. Marchiali not Seldon had been mistakenly released from the Bastille and now he was bringing Marchiali (Louis) back to the prison.

8 The man in the iron mask is Philippe, twin brother of Louis XIV. Student's own answer about the prisoner's future. They could speculate about him dying in prison, about Louis finally suffering from his conscience and releasing him, or about someone helping him to escape again.

9 Student's own answer. This is a matter of personal choice because characters' loyalties mean that their behaviour is often not straightforwardly good or bad. There is no right or wrong answer; the students need to assess the behaviour of the various characters and think about the morality of it in order to write their own list. Here is a suggested order.

- Good
- Baisemeaux
 - Athos
 - Porthos
 - D'Artagnan
 - Fouquet
 - Philippe
 - Queen Anne
 - Louis XIII
 - Louis XIV
 - Aramis
 - Colbert

Bad