The issue of race in *Othello* has only become important in modern times. It has no real relevance in its original context.

- Some critics believe we only focus on the issue of race because of our society’s political correctness. They argue that Shakespeare never intended racism to be one of the main issues.

- Other critics have claimed the text supports a reading that examines the issue of race and it’s crucial to the play as a whole.

**What do you think?**

In groups of three, prepare your arguments for or against the statement at the top of this sheet.

- Make sure you research your opinion and gather evidence from the text.

- Make detailed notes, but don’t read from these during the discussion.

You will be assessed on the originality of your opinions and whether they are supported with evidence from the text. You must respond to the points made by others in your group and argue your point of view. Make sure you speak clearly and in formal English.