CSI: WHO KILLED JULIUS CAESAR?

Victim’s Name: Julius Caesar
Birthplace: Roman Empire
Birth date: July, 100 BCE
Death: March 15, 44 BCE (55 years old)
Eyes: Green
Hair: Brown, Balding
Height: 5’7”
Weight: 175 lbs
Occupation: Roman Consul

On the left is a photo created to show the assassination of Julius Caesar. On the right is a marble statue made to depict Caesar.

CASE SUMMARY

Born as a member of the patrician elite, Julius Caesar rose to fame in large part because of how he identified with the lower plebeian class. Caesar quickly became popular in the Roman Republic. He was elected Senator at age 30, then at 39 he was appointed to the post of military governor of Spain. In 60 BCE, at the age of 40, Caesar was elected for the highest position in all of Rome: he became one of Rome’s two Consuls. As Consul, Caesar expanded Rome’s territory into Gaul, allied Rome with powerful neighbors such as France, and worked hard to satisfy the Roman citizens.

However, despite his widespread admiration and popularity, Julius Caesar was brutally murdered on the Senate floor on March 15th in the year 44 BCE. His death would plunge the Roman Republic into a civil war that would transform the republic into an empire. Your responsibility, detective, is to uncover two questions regarding Julius Caesar’s assassination.

WHO MURDERED JULIUS CAESAR AND WHY WAS HE MURDERED?
Station I: Diary of Augustus Caesar

1. Who did Augustus blame for killing Caesar?

2. How did Augustus say the senate felt toward Julius Caesar?
   a. angry    b. jealous    c. sad    d. happy

3. How was Julius related to Augustus?

4.) What are two reasons the Roman people liked Caesar?

5.) What seems to be Augustus' "next step" now that Caesar has been assassinated
   a. become a king
   b. become a Caesar
   c. become a Senator
   d. become an emperor

Is Augustus the murderer? Why or why not? How is he involved?
1. How did he feel toward Caesar?

2. Why was he upset with Caesar?
   a. he had fired them from their jobs
   b. he told them they were crazy
   c. he didn’t stand to receive their honor
   d. he told them he didn’t want their honor

3. What did the Senate want to do for Caesar?

4. Do you think he would be willing to kill Julius Caesar?
   a. Yes   b. No

5. Place yourself in Trebonius' shoes. What does he seem to be afraid of?

Is Trebonius the murderer?
What motivation would he have?
Station III: Testimony from one of Caesar’s Bodyguards:

1. What did Caesar do to his bodyguards?
   a. fire them
   b. promote them
   c. make them senators
   d. send them on vacation

2. From the above question, what explanation is given to explain why he did this?

3. What advice does the bodyguard give to Caesar?
   a. fight the senate
   b. fire the senate
   c. stay home
   d. take a trip

4. Does Caesar's bodyguard seem angry or worried? Explain

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Is Caesar's bodyguard the murderer? What motivation would he have?
Station IV: Plutarch the Historian

1. Where does Plutarch say the murder took place?
   a. in the street   c. floor of Caesar’s home
   b. Brutus’ office d. the Senate floor

2. Did everyone here know about the attack? Explain.

3. What did Cassius and Brutus do to stall Caesar's entrance?
   a. told him a story   b. tripped him   c. told him a joke   d. engaged him in conversation

4. Who struck the first blow?
   a. Tillius   c. Cassius
   b. Brutus   d. Tyrannus

5. What did Plutarch do?
   a. he was a historian   b. he was a Senator   c. he was a King

Do you think Plutarch was involved? Why or why not?
1. What is Cassius’ view of Julius Caesar?
   a. that Caesar is a great man   c. that Caesar is an effective and profound leader
   b. that Caesar should be honored   d. that Caesar is conceited

2. Where did this source come from?

3. To Cassius, what is most important?
   a. Caesar   b. Rome   c. the gods   d. the Senate

4. Why does Cassius believe Caesar is not a god?
   a. Cassius saw Caesar bleed   c. Cassius saw Caesar bow to a king
   b. Cassius saw Caesar lose a battle   d. Cassius once saved Caesar’s life

5. Who is Cassius talking with in this source?
   a. Caesar   b. Brutus   c. the gods   d. the Senate

Would Cassius have reason to assassinate Caesar?
**Explain. Do you think he is involved?**
Stations VI: Nicolaus of Damascus

1. Which word is a synonym for the word “conspirator?”
   a. police            c. friends
   b. collaborator      d. politicians

2. According to Nicolaus, how many different plots for Caesar's murder was planned?
   a. 3            c. 4
   b. 2            d. 1

3. Who does Nicolaus allude to killed Julius Caesar?
   a. Cassius    b. Brutus    c. Marc Antony    d. the Senate

   What evidence do you have to support your statement?

4. What weapon did the attacker(s) plan on using?

Is Nicolaus the murderer? Why or why not?

Does his account seem trustworthy? Explain.
Stations VII (7) The Assassination of Julius Caesar

1. According to this source, did Julius Caesar give Roman citizens a reason to be concerned for their safety or for the safety of their republic?
   a. yes  c. no

2. What does Roman law say about generals and the Rubicon River? Why do you think this was?

3. What phrase might be said by Caesar during 44 BCE?
   a. “I have enjoyed my time as ruler, it is now time to step down.”
   b. “I should rule forever - I proclaim myself dictator for life!”
   c. “I am sick of fighting - it is time to retire!”
   d. “I should relinquish my rule since the warring period is over.”

4. What is a synonym for “consolidate?”
   a. crumble  c. strengthen
   b. ignore  d. honor

5. What is a “civil war”?
   a. A war against an outside force b. A war fought internally c. A war fought strictly over land

What factors might be contributed to the assassination of Julius Caesar?
Assuming this source is accurate, do you think his murder was justified?
Stations VIII (8) Transcript of Caesar’s Final Days

1. Does Marc Antony seem to be on Caesar’s side or against him?
   a. he is WITH Caesar         b. he is AGAINST Caesar

   What evidence do you have to support your statement?

2. Does Marcus Brutus seem to be on Caesar’s side or against him?
   a. he is WITH Caesar         b. he is AGAINST Caesar

   What evidence do you have to support your statement?

3. Should Caesar have trusted Calpurnia’s nightmares?
   a. yes                      b. no                       c. more information is needed

4. What best describes Brutus just before the attack?
   a. he was trying to calm Caesar
   b. he was watching Caesar closely
   c. he was trying to persuade his murderer to change his mind
   d. he was convincing Caesar to become king

Are Marc Antony or Marcus Brutus the murderers?

Why or why not? How are they involved?
Stations IX (9) Letter From Senator Marcus Brutus

1. Who wrote this letter, and who was it written to?

2. After reading this letter, what can you determine about how Brutus viewed Caesar?
   - a. he viewed Caesar as a great friend
   - b. he had wanted to kill Caesar for a long time
   - c. he was jealous of the power Caesar had accumulated
   - d. he proposed the plan to kill Caesar

3. Based on what you read, why does Brutus think something needs to be done with Caesar?
   - a. Caesar is a liar
   - b. It is more important to keep Rome safe
   - c. Caesar is becoming corrupt
   - d. Brutus wanted to become king
   
   What evidence do you have to support your statement?

4. What role will Brutus play in the attack?
   - a. he will lure Caesar to the Senate
   - b. he will convince Caesar to step down
   - c. he will not play a role
   - d. he will kill Caesar by himself

5. Who seems to be the instigator (hint: an instigator is a person who brings about or initiates something)?
   - a. Cassius
   - d. Brutus

Do you think Cassius or Brutus could be guilty of the crime? Why or why not?
Stations X (10) Testimony from Luciano Garafano, Investigator

1. Who does Garafano think is responsible for Caesar's murder?

2. What was wrong with Caesar as he aged?
   a. he remembered things less  
   b. he had seizures  
   c. his body was breaking down due to old age  
   d. all of the above

3. What motivation would Caesar have to allow his assassination to happen?

4. Assume Garafano's theory is correct. Place yourself in Caesar's shoes. What would you do?

What do you think about Garafano’s theory? Explain your answer and connect it to evidence from an earlier scenario.