NOTES

OBJECTIVES:

**Antigone**

**Objectives**

*By the end of this Unit, students will be able to:*

1. analyze the use of Aristotle’s three unities in the play

2. analyze the role of dramatic irony in the play

3. analyze roles of free will and fate in the hero’s downfall

4. examine how Sophocles builds suspense in the play

5. respond to multiple-choice questions similar to those that will appear on the Advanced

Placement in English Literature and Composition exam

6. respond to free response questions similar to those that will appear on the Advanced

Placement in English Literature and Composition exam

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Who is the tragic hero in this play?

2. What role does the Chorus play in *Antigone*?

3. Identify and explain the instances of irony in the play.

4. What are Creon’s contradictory opinions on loyalty? How do they contribute to his downfall?

5. Discuss Antigone’s refusal to compromise and her decision not to allow Ismene to assume

any part of the blame for burying Polynices.

**ESSAY QUESTIONS**

Trace the development of one of the following themes in *Antigone*:

\*Any excess, even an excessive devotion to state or religion, is a fault and leads to misfortune.

\*Pride and stubbornness give rise to tyranny and are character flaws that cause suffering and-inevitably-tragedy.

\*In any conflict between divine and human law, divine laws take precedence.

\*One is personally responsible for one’s own suffering, but suffering produces wisdom.