The Count of Monte Cristo
*TEST STUDY GUIDE*

Chapter 1 Summary:

After the Pharaon’s captain dies at sea, the ship’s owner, Monsieur Morrel, appoints Edmond Dantes to be the captain. Danglars, the jealous purser of the ship who had hoped to be captain, is furious. Then Dantes has a joyous reunion with his fiancée, Mercedes, and meets Fernand Mondego, who is secretly in love with Mercedes. When the happy couple announce their upcoming wedding, the two jealous men, join Caderousse, a greedy neighbor of Dantes, in a plot to falsely accuse Dantes of being Napoleon’s secret agent (treason).

Chapter 2 Summary:

An anonymous letter of accusation causes the police to arrest Dantes at his betrothal feast. Monsieur Morrel, certain of Dantes’ innocence, tries to defend him. But Villefort, the prosecutor, discovers that he would have to imprison his own father (Noirtier – the true secret agent) and possibly ruin his own career, if he lets Dantes go. He decides to imprison Edmond in the Chateau d’If (a horrible prison from which no one escapes).

Chapter 3 Summary:

Dantes spends many years in prison, completely cut off from the outside world. He has no idea that Napoleon has regained power, then was defeated one last time at Waterloo (finally being exiled to St. Helena). Nor does he know that Fernand is courting Mercedes and that his father has died. At last, he loses all hope of release.
**Chapter 4 Summary:**

A fellow prisoner, Father Faria, secretly digs a tunnel into Dantes’ cell. The old man befriends Edmond and educates him as they join in a plan of escape. In the meantime, Dantes tells the priest this story, and Father Faria helps Edmond to realize that Villefort is responsible for his imprisonment. For the first time, Edmond also realizes who must have sent the accusing letter. His heart is filled with bitter revenge.

When Father Faria becomes too ill to carry out their plan, he kindly gives Dantes information about a great treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo. Then, Father Faria dies, and Dantes takes his place in the body bag. He is thrown into the sea by the guards, who think he is the old priest.

**Chapter 5 Summary:**

After swimming ashore (onto the Isle of Tiboulen), Dantes witnesses the wreck of a fishing boat. Pretending to be the lone survivor, he signals a passing ship, and is taken on as a crewmember. Edmond finds out that he has been a prisoner at the Chateau d’If for fourteen years! He also finds out that the captain and his crew are smugglers and bides his time until they visit the Isle of Monte Cristo. There, he feigns an injury and is left behind to find the hidden treasure.

**Chapter 6 Summary:**

Disguised as a priest, Dantes visits Caderousse, the first step in his plan of revenge. Pretending that Dantes is dead, Edmond gives Caderousse a diamond to be shared among Dantes’ friends. Caderousse admits the plot against Dantes, but minimizes his own involvement. He also says that Danglars and Fernand are now wealthy – and that Fernand has married Mercedes. Further, he says
that Dantes’ father is dead and that Monsieur Morrel, now in financial
difficulties (debt), had been kind to him before he died. Dantes
returns to Marseilles and anonymously clears Morrel’s debts.

**Chapter 7 Summary:**

Now calling himself the Count of Monte Cristo, Dantes befriends
Albert (son of Mercedes and Fernand), and his friend (Franz) during
the carnival season in Rome. He invites the two wealthy young men to
an execution, where they discuss the topic of revenge (eye for an eye).
Then Albert is kidnapped for ransom by Luigi Vampa (the Italian
bandit), and Franz goes to the Count of Monte Cristo for help. Dantes
rescues Albert and so ensures his friendship. Little do Albert and
Franz know, the kidnapping was all part of Dantes’ plan of revenge.

**Chapter 8 Summary:**

In Paris, Dantes visits Albert and is not recognized by his old
ever, Fernand (Albert’s father). Mercedes does seem to recognize
him, but says nothing. At Dantes’ new home in Paris, we meet
Haydee, a young woman (and orphan) Dantes rescued and adopted.
She is clearly in love with Dantes, although he doesn’t see it. Dantes
then cleverly arranges to meet Villefort’s wife, Heloise, whom he
supplies with a liquid poison the old priest had given him.

Next, he meets, but is not recognized by another of his enemies,
Villefort. Finally, we see Valentine, Villefort’s daughter, telling
Maximilian Morrel that she would always love him, even though she is
being forced to marry Franz in three months. She reveals that Heloise
does not want her to marry anyone, since Valentine – instead of
Heloise’s son (Edward)- will inherit the family fortune when she
marries.
Chapter 9 Summary:
Again unrecognized, Dantes meets with Danglars and arranges for a huge line of credit with Danglars' bank. Then he meets with Benedetto, a young criminal who is the illegitimate son of Villefort. He promises the young man money and a new identity. Soon known as Andrea Cavalcanti, Benedetto is blackmailed by Caderousse, a former cellmate.

In the meantime, Valentine’s grandmother is mysteriously poisoned, and Noirtier breaks up the engagement between Valentine and Franz (revealing he was the man that actually killed Franz’s father). Then, an old servant is poisoned by a drink intended for Noirtier. The doctor suspects that the murderer is Valentine – who has the most to gain from these deaths.

Chapter 10 Summary:
Caderousse demands more blackmail money, then plans to break into the house of the Count of Monte Cristo. Warned by Benedetto, Dantes waits and catches Caderousse and forces him to admit his connections to Benedetto in a note to Danglars. (Remember, Benedetto is to marry Danglars' daughter, Eugenie.) Then Benedetto meets Caderousse outside and stabs him. As Caderousse is dying, Dantes reveals his true identity to him.

Chapter 11 Summary:
Dantes sends an anonymous letter to a newspaper, accusing Fernand of betraying Ali Pasha. Haydee affirms this in court. To avenge his disgraced father’s name, Albert challenges Dantes to a duel. Mercedes intercedes (telling Albert the truth), and Dantes, dressed as a sailor, tells Fernand who he really is. When Mercedes and Albert disown him, Fernand shoots himself. Then Dantes secretly arranges Benedetto’s arrest, and withdraws huge amounts of money.
from Danglars’ bank, nearly ruining him. Danglars flees the country with the money he has left.

In the meantime, Valentine sees her stepmother trying to poison her, but is protected by a pill Dantes has given her. Everyone thinks she is dead. Villefort accuses Heloise of murder, and Benedetto testifies in court that he is Villefort’s son. When the disgraced Villefort finds that his wife and son have killed themselves, Dantes reveals his true identity at last, driving Villefort mad (insane). At last, Dantes’ revenge is complete. This is also the first time Dantes is beginning to feel remorse for his revenge.

**Chapter 12 Summary:**

Uneasy about the cruel extent of his revenge, Dantes leaves Paris with Maximilian, who is grieving over Valentine’s death. He then discovers that Danglars has been imprisoned by Luigi Vampa and visits him in his cell. From shock, Danglars’ hair turns white when Dantes reveals his true identity.

Finally, he meets Maximilian on the Isle of Monte Cristo and reunites him with Valentine. Then, Haydee declares her love for Dantes, and he gratefully decides that God has forgiven him. Edmonds Dantes then sails away, after giving his house in Paris to Maximilian and Valentine as a wedding present.

**Important Characters:**

- Edmond Dantes – Count of Monte Cristo
- Mercedes’ – Edmond’s fiancée/Fernando’s wife
- Fernand – enemy of Dantes/Mercedes’ husband
- Morrel – owner of the Pharaon
Villefort – the prosecutor
Father Faria – old priest who befriends Dantes
Albert – son of Mercedes and Fernand
Franz – friend of Albert
Luigi Vampa – Italian bandit
Haydee – young orphan rescued by Dantes
Heloise – Villefort’s wife
Valentine – Villefort’s daughter
Edward – son of Heloise and Villefort
Benedetto – Villefort’s illegitimate son
Maximilian – in love with Valentine

**Important Places/Things:**

- Pharaon – ship Edmond worked on
- Chateau d’If – horrible prison
- Elba – island Napoleon is first exiled to
- Tiboulen – island Edmond swims to
- Monte Cristo – island where Edmond finds the treasure

**Short Answer (Do NOT need to be full sentences):**

1. What is Edmond Dantes accused of? _______________________________

2. Who decides to imprison Edmond? _______________________________
3. Name the three men who were jealous of Edmond Dantes.
   • ___________________________________________________________________
   • ___________________________________________________________________
   • ___________________________________________________________________

4. Name the six things Edmond learns in prison from Father Faria.
   • ___________________________________________________________________
   • ___________________________________________________________________
   • ___________________________________________________________________
   • ___________________________________________________________________
   • ___________________________________________________________________
   • ___________________________________________________________________

5. How many years was Edmond Dantes a prisoner? ________________

6. What has happened to Edmond’s father? ____________________________

7. What does Dantes do for Morrel? _________________________________

8. Who blackmails Benedetto? _________________________________

9. Who does the doctor think the murderer is? ________________________

10. Who IS the real murderer? ______________________________________
11. Who kills Caderousse? ________________________________

12. What happens to Villefort? ________________________________

13. What becomes of Heloise & Edward? ________________________________

14. What is Fernand accused of? ________________________________

15. At the end, how does Edmond feel about his revenge? __________

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Extended Response:

1. How does Edmond Dantes escape the Chateau d'If?

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2. How does Edmond Dantes plan to take his revenge and why?

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3. What becomes of Fernand? Why do you think this happens?

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4. Do you think Edmond Dantes’ revenge went too far? Do you think it was fair/just? Explain your decision and back it up with facts from the story.

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