5. Why is the code of ethics between warrior and king so important to Anglo-Saxon society?
Answer: *Throughout the poem (beginning with the description of Shild in the Prologue) we see how the code of comitatus forms the backbone of Anglo-Saxon society. The king known for his generosity will attract the most warriors. In return, the warrior will pledge his loyalty to the king and his country. Cite the Geat warriors' refusal (with the exception of Wiglaf) to help Beowulf when he fights the dragon. Refer to Wiglaf's speech to his cowardly comrades, and discuss the idea that, as Wiglaf puts it, death is better than the violation of the code.*