THE MONOLOGUE from ACT III SCENE 1

A room in the castle

To tell the truth it is the most famous soliloquy, which start with the well-known line: ‘’ To be,or not to be, that is the question’’.

The structure of the monologue has been organised posing a question and two possible answers. From the very first line punctuation plays an important role : the question is posed by a perception verb : TO BE. The playwright uses the infinite to make this question a universal one. The two choices are: to live or to die so the problem is life that is the central of investigation. For Hamlet life is a series of problems against which you have to fight.

As the opening line tells us, "To be or not to be" revolves around complex notions of life and death. In line 6-7, Hamlet wonders about the nature of his death and thinks for a moment that it may be like a deep sleep, which seems at first to be acceptable until he speculates on what will come in such a deep sleep. Just when his “sleep” answer begins to appeal him, he stops short and wonders in another of the important quotes from Shakespeare’s Hamlet, “To sleep: perchance to dream:—ay there’s the rub; / For in that sleep of death what dreams may come”. The “dreams” that he fears are the pains that the afterlife might bring and since there is no way to be positive that there will be a relief from his earthly sufferings through death, he forced to question death yet again. **Hamlet initially argues that death would indeed be preferable:** he compares the act of dying to a peaceful sleep: "And by a sleep to say we end / The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks / That flesh is heir to." However, **he quickly changes his tune when he considers that nobody knows for sure what happens after death**