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# MACBETH

by William Shakespeare

Gr 10 11 12

**WORKSHEETS** Questions & Answers

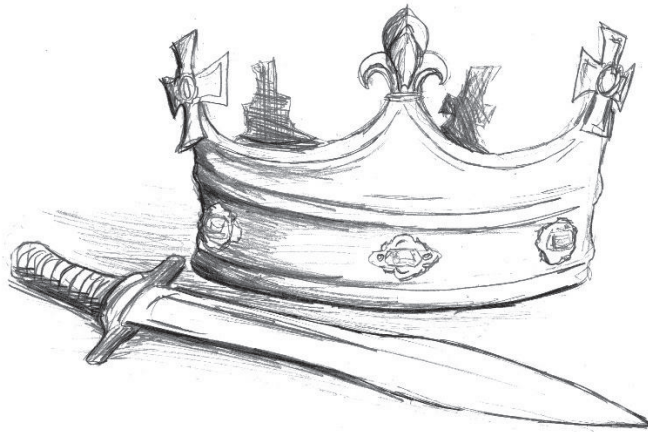


# MACBETH

by William Shakespeare

Grade 11 & 12

WORKSHEETS: Questions and Answers



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# Introduction

This is the story of a struggle between Duncan, the King of Scotland and Macbeth who wished to be King, especially because his wife had a dream that she would be Queen and the first Lady of Scotland.

Duncan is being opposed by two of his noblemen. They are the Thanes of Cawdor and Macdonwald, who are being supported by the King of Norway.

A complication arises because Macbeth, who wants the throne, and Duncan, who has the throne, are both grandsons of King Malcolm who used to be the King of Scotland.

Macbeth decides to murder King Duncan after three Witches promised that he will be King of Scotland. As more people threaten his power more murders follow until the sons of Duncan, Malcolm and Donalbain defeat him. Feelings of guilt drive Macbeth mad and his wife takes her own life.

## CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

**Macbeth**

**Lady Macbeth**

**The Witches**

**Banquo**

**Macbeth** – The name of Macbeth is first mentioned by one of three Weird Sisters against the background of the battle. There are, therefore, two main levels of which the “plot” of the play are based. The political and the moral.

Looking at Macbeth’s role in the political action of the play it would seem that he is an evil and ambitious man. But there is a moral conflict within the character of Macbeth himself: the eternal conflict between good and evil, or, as some refer to it, between fair and foul elements in his character.

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From the outset Macbeth is apparently a good man as we learn of his courage and loyalty in his defence of the king's throne. Duncan refers to him as "valiant cousin" and "worthy gentleman" and "Noble Macbeth" and he is regarded as the instrument of justice and a man of honour and integrity. But towards the end of the play he remarks about life that:

...It is a tale by an idiot, full of sound and fury signifying nothing.

We see how this man of courage is reduced to a pathetic figure. The honourable man at the beginning of the play is reduced to performing treacherous murder. He orders the assassinations of innocent people in order to preserve a throne he has corrupted. He becomes desperately dependant on the unsubstantial prophecies of the Weird Sisters. We see how he changes from a man who "would not play false" into a man who uses lies, deceit and hypocrisy. It can be said that as a tragic hero Macbeth's greatness of character is marred by one fatal flaw. The flaw may be said to be his ambition ...

I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition.

It appears that the influence of the Weird Sisters and the ruthless Lady Macbeth was the main force behind Macbeth's ambition. It is Lady Macbeth herself who tells us that Macbeth is too gentle to commit the act which will make him king. She realises that Macbeth is an ambitious man but she also knows that he is not rude enough to achieve his ambition.

Although he wants to be great he wants to achieve this in a good and moral way. She therefore instils in him her own ruthlessness and succeeds because she knows that Macbeth . . . would not play false and et wouldst wrongly win.

It is the two words "And yet" that reflect the conflict in Macbeth: there are the elements of good in him and yet there is also that in him that leads him towards evil. Although Macbeth's struggle with his conscience is fierce it would seem that his conscience will prevail when he says: "We will proceed no further in this business"

Lady Macbeth exploits an aspect of Macbeth that is important for our understanding of his character and its disintegration: his concept of manhood, or selfhood. No man can match Macbeth in courage but troubled by visions of horror and evil he is filled with terror and is unable to act.

It is Lady Macbeth who persuades him that only by murdering Duncan will he be a man. But by murdering Duncan he pays a terrible price because he betrays his own self and from that moment on “horrible imaginings” overwhelm him from which only death offers a relief. Just as Lady Macbeth and the Weird Sisters turn Macbeth into a man he should not have become, not only by appealing to his ambition, but also promising him a world in which “nothing is, but what is not”, a world in which Macbeth can only be the victim.

The Kingship is promised to Macbeth but the consequences of obtaining the Kingship by evil means is withheld from him. As a somewhat reckless man without “a wisdom that does guide his valour”, like Banquo, Macbeth ignores the consequences that must inevitably follow. He will not taste the glory of power. What will exist for him is a haunted life of fear and suspicion. And the consequences are deep – there is no immortality for him on earth because he has no sons: having murdered a good King, he is denied immortality in Heaven, he commits himself to a world of reversed moral values where fair is foul and foul is fair, a world in which lies seem to be the truth. Eventually Macbeth has become alienated from the man he once was.

The tragedy of Macbeth lies in the loss of moral integrity because of ambition. He lost his selfhood because he betrayed his better self.

**Lady Macbeth** – Lady Macbeth would seem to be without any moral doubts about the means of fulfilling her ambition. She sees moral doubts as weaknesses and tries to free Macbeth from them.

She attempts to rid herself of any womanly feelings of remorse and pity which might withhold her and Macbeth from murdering Duncan.

It would appear that Lady Macbeth is immune from “horrible imaginings” from which Macbeth suffered so intensely. She reprimands Macbeth for being a fool when he tells her that the blood on his hands is a sorry sight.

When Macbeth heard someone say “God bless us”, she says: “Consider it not so deeply”. She also accuses him of being “brainsickly”. She impatiently replies. “A little water clears us of this deed”, when Macbeth says all the waters of the ocean could not clean his hand from Duncan’s blood.

Lady Macbeth will suffer guilt no less than Macbeth. We see this in the sleep-walking scene where she is reduced to a pitiful victim of the horror which she herself helped to bring about. She now has the need to have a light with her and needed water to wash the blood of Duncan from their hands.

So great will Lady Macbeth’s suffering be that she eventually takes her own life.

***The Witches*** - The function of the Witches in the play is to inspire Macbeth to become King and to betray him by deceiving him and seducing him with half-truths.

The play begins with the Witches and we learn of that part within ourselves where the destinies of men are worked out. The Witches remind us that our moral order is vulnerable whether they are external or the deeper human psyche.

The question of the reality of the Witches points to one of the major themes of the play: the truth is often the opposite; what would seem to be fair is very often foul (we see for example how royal power has brought Macbeth and Lady Macbeth not joy but grief).

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The Witches are described as “wither’d” which means, all that is in the antithesis of creative life in nature. They are also described as “wild”, and this prepares the way for an important theme of the play: that of order and disorder. We notice how the political disorder goes with the complete breakdown of moral order within the soul of Macbeth – initiated and represented by the Witches as described by Banquo with these words:

And often – times to win us our harm, instruments of Darkness tells us truths; Win us with the honest trifles, to betray’s. In deepest consequence.

The real affect the Witches will have on Macbeth is revealed by the word “betray” when the Witches promise him that “he will be safe until Birnam Wood moves towards Dunsinane and that “no man born of woman shall harm Macbeth.”

Macbeth regains courage on hearing these words which contributes to his conception of manhood and which he showed in defence of Duncan’s throne on the battlefield.

Macbeth makes mention of “My better part of man”. In these words lies the crux of Macbeth’s tragedy. They led Macbeth on to betray his better half by an appeal to his worse half. By providing Macbeth with false courage the Witches perverted his sense of manhood just as Lady Macbeth did.

Thus the Witches serve several purposes in the play:

1. The element of evil they provide contribute towards the conflict between good and evil in the play.
2. The Witches contribute to the theme of how moral and political crimes are reflected by an inversion of natural laws
3. They enkindle Macbeth’s ambition by prophesying that he will be the King
4. They contribute to the theme of the discrepancy between:
  - a. Appearance and reality
  - b. Lies and truth, and
  - c. What often appears to be fair and what is in reality foul

5. The Witches contribute to the self-betrayal of Macbeth's "better part of man"

**Banquo** – The character of Banquo displays the same quality of courage on the battlefield against the rebels as the character of Macbeth. But there are very important differences: Banquo will remain loyal to Duncan and Macbeth will not. Banquo would never accept the outward, superficial glory of power if he had to sacrifice his own. Whereas the more passionate Macbeth risks the consequences of his actions, Banquo "hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour. To act in safety"

In line with the discrepancy between appearance and reality in the play Banquo is less concerned with the apparent meaning of the Witches than with the truth of the matter. We learn a lot about his own character as he warns Macbeth about the witches.

"And oftentimes, to win us to harm the instruments of Darkness tell us truths;

Win us with honest trifles, to betray's

In deepest consequence

The word "betray" has special meaning because not only is Banquo a man who would never betray his own moral values. He suspects it is a bribe to join forces with Macbeth's already tainted rule and he therefore rejects it.

If we consider Banquo's words in the opening of Act 3 we realise that he is not so superhuman. ("May they not be my oracles as well. And set me up in hope?")

Banquo often speaks with images suggesting natural life and growth. For example, he addresses the Witches who are associated with all that is

destructive and disorderly in nature and says: “If you can look into the seeds of time, and say which grain will grow, and which will not. Speak then to me”. It is fitting that Banquo, who has an inner “royalty of nature” should beget descendants who will be kings whereas Macbeth commits himself to the forces of destruction and will remain childless. It is the Witches’ prophecy to Banquo that he will “get kings” that is a strong motive for Macbeth to murder Banquo. Macbeth has in a sense struck at nature itself by murdering Banquo.

## **THE MAIN THEMES OF THE PLAY**

### **1. Tragedy**

In this play we see a brave man who is in full command of himself who lost control of himself and his destiny because his ambition got out of control, mainly because he has been deceived by the Witches who represent all that is evil.

We find a tragic irony in the fact that Macbeth who is so loyal to his King in the beginning of the play is reduced to a man who performs a treacherous murder.

In the beginning of the play Macbeth helps to protect a worthy and good king but in the last act of the play he is desperately protecting a throne that he himself corrupted.

The tragedy of Macbeth lies in the fact that he could have been a great man but encouraged by the Weird Sisters (the Witches) and Lady Macbeth he has been reduced to a life that he himself hated.

## **2. Power**

As in many other of Shakespeare's plays his play illustrates the truth of the observation that "power corrupts: absolute power corrupts absolutely". We learn how Macbeth has been corrupted and caught up in a trap of power because he seized it by force and unlawfully which makes him all the more vulnerable to its corrupting influence.

Macbeth's desperate attempts to make certain of his power is the cause behind much in the action of the play.

In parts 1 and 2 we see how Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's desire for and seizure of power is culminating in the murder of Duncan.

In parts 3 and 4 Macbeth attempts to make his power secure: first by murdering Banquo, secondly by attempting to murder Macduff, and finally, as Macduff and Malcolm learn of the slaughter in England.

In part 5 Macbeth loses his power and Malcolm, the son of Duncan, gets the throne back.

This theme of power provides the framework within which Macbeth and Lady Macbeth work out their struggle for power.

## **3. The contrast between appearance and reality**

The theme of the contrast between appearance and reality is central to an understanding of Macbeth's character.

- a) Duncan says of Cawdor: "There's no art. To find the mind's construction in the face" (1,4,12-13). Duncan is in effect saying that Cawdor appeared to be loyal, but was really a traitor. He will be similarly deceived by Macbeth himself.
- b) Lady Macbeth urges Macbeth to:

“Look like the time, bear all welcome in your eye. Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under’t. (1,5,63-65). In this way Lady Macbeth gives a straight forward instruction to appear to be innocent while in reality to be evil.

- c) Macbeth begins: “To doubt the equivocation of the friend. That lies like the truth: (5.5 43-44)

According to the Oxford Dictionary “equivocation” means to “use ambiguous words to conceal the truth”. Macbeth refers to the prophecy that he will never be vanquished until Birnam Wood marches against him. The wood appears to be marching to Macbeth but is actually Malcolm who orders his men to cut down branches and to march on Macbeth’s castle using them as camouflage. In this manner we learn that what happens to be the truth is really a lie, like the prophecy itself.

In the other prophecy of the Witches we see the same thing happening because: “none of woman born shall harm Macbeth: (4:1 80-81)

This prophecy refers to the way men were delivered into the world. The fact that Macduff was born by Caesarean section fulfils the prophecy and Macbeth is again deceived by the Witches.

In the play we find that what appear to be one thing is really another. For instance:

- a) Innocence is really evil
- b) Loyalty is really treachery
- c) The truth is really a lie

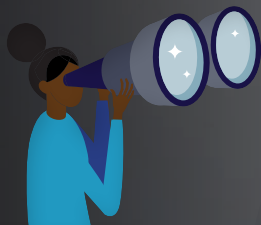
By murdering Duncan, Macbeth has reversed the moral values and has entered a world in which what appears to be “fair” is really “fowl”. He and Lady Macbeth pay a terrible and tragic price for this.



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**Act One**  
**Scene One**  
**Lines 1 – 10**

**Questions:**

1. What do the Witches chant during the storm?

---

2. What does this mean?

---

3. What were the 'Familiars' all Witches were believed to have?

---

4. What is the purpose of the Blank Verse in Shakespear's plays?

---

5. What is the meaning of the word 'hurlyburly'?

---

6. Who will turn out to be the greatest traitor of all?

---

7. Who is created Thane of Cawdor?

---

8. What theme does line 11 ('fair is foul, and foul is fair') introduce?

---

9. What appeared to be most 'fair' to Macbeth?

---

10. Give synonyms for the word 'fair'

---

11. Give synonyms for the word 'foul'

---

12. What happens to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth once they have sacrificed the 'fair' in themselves?

---

**Act One**  
**Scene One**  
**Lines 1 – 10**

**Answers:**

1. 'Fair is foul, and foul is fair'
2. What seems to be good is really bad.
3. Creatures that they could change into when they did not wish to be seen.
4. To help to create the atmosphere of evil and chaos, further emphasised by the storm.
5. It conjures up an image of strong and burly men hurling themselves at each other in the fury of war.
6. Macbeth
7. Macbeth
8. That of the contrast between appearance and reality.
9. The glory and power of kingship.
10. Beautiful, Satisfactory, Clean, Unblemished, Just, Legitimate, Above-Board.
11. Offensive to the senses, loathsome, striking, dirty soiled, filthy, revolting, disgusting, morally polluted, obscene, dishonour.
12. Their world will lose its joy and happiness, and their worlds will be filled with the murkiness of constant deception.

## Scene 2

### Lines 1 - 33

#### Questions:

1. Describe King Duncan's image.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does Shakespeare mention the word 'blood' frequently in the play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is irony is there in the fact that Macbeth killed a traitor?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which main theme in the play is reflected by the following words:  
"At no time broke my faith: would not betray,  
The Devil to his fellow" (4.3 128-129)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the purpose of the suspense heightened by the words of the sergeant: 'Doubtful is stood'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is typical of the sergeant's language?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What quality of Macbeth's personality is emphasised in Act 1 Scene 2?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What do we learn about Macbeth's personality through the 'bloody execution'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What makes Macbeth's future crime all the more brutal and treacherous?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the meaning of 'as whence the sun gins his reflection'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Who is the 'justice' referred to in line 20?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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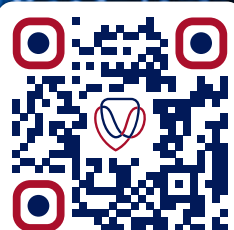
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## Scene 2

### Lines 1 - 33

#### Answers:

1. He is clean, clear, unblemished, just and the legitimate King.
2. To emphasise the path of blood that Macbeth is to follow.
3. He becomes a traitor himself.
4. The theme of loyalty and betrayal.
5. To highlight Macbeth's part in the battle and to emphasise the qualities of courage and loyalty that he displayed in it.
6. His earthy language.
7. 'The brave Macbeth'.
8. The decisiveness of his character.
9. That it is Duncan who calls him a 'valiant cousin' and a 'worthy gentleman'.
10. 'From where the sun begins to set'.
11. Macbeth.

## Scene 2

### Lines 35 - 69

#### Questions:

1. What do the words 'double' and 'doubly redoubled' express?

---

2. With what is the word 'bathe' associated with in line 40?

---

3. What does the metaphor in 'flout the sky' in line 50 express?

---

4. What theme does the words 'that most disloyal traitor' touch upon?

---

5. What is the implication of Macbeth being created Thane of Cawdor?

---

6. What does Macbeth win?

---

## Scene 2

### Lines 35 - 69

#### Answers:

1. Macbeth's and Banquo's ferocity and superiority in battle because they are a well-matched pair.
2. With stench and blood of war.
3. The arrogance and contempt the Norwegian army has for the Scottish.
4. The theme of loyalty and treachery.
5. Macbeth's ambition urges him on, first to deceive and then to murder Duncan.
6. He 'wins' a life of guilt and fear and he loses all the honour and integrity that he has displayed on the battlefield.

“O, full of scorpions in my mind, dear wife!”

Quote: Macbeth

Animal imagery is used here by Macbeth to highlight how both his guilty conscience and his fears about Banquo's son's stealing his crowning are stinging him.

## Scene 3

### Lines 1 - 88

#### Questions:

1. What image is constantly repeated?

---

2. Is Macbeth aware of the deeper significance of his words: “so foul and fair a day I have not seen”?

---

3. What is the meaning of Banquo’s words: “They look not like th’inhabitants o’ th’earth And yet are on ‘t’?”

---

4. Explain the confusion of values in lines 45-47.

---

5. In what way does Banquo differ from the qualities of Macbeth?

---

6. What news have the Witches given Banquo?

---

7. Why does Macbeth seem fearful?

---

8. What do we learn about Banquo?

---

9. With which titles have the Witches greeted Macbeth?

---

10. Does the prophecy of Macbeth’s future greatness and happiness come true?

---

11. Whose future will prove ‘greater and happier’?

---

12. Who, according to Banquo, are as insubstantial as bubbles in water?

---

13. What does Macbeth mean by 'imperfect'?
- 
14. What does Macbeth's 'tell me more' show?
- 
15. Why is it significant that the place where Macbeth hears of his future destiny is a 'blasted heath'?
16. What is a characteristic feature of the Witches?
- 
17. What does Macbeth's words 'what seem'd corporal' mean?
- 
18. Which three elements are associated with the Witches
- 
19. What could the 'insane root' refer to?
- 
20. Has Banquo shown himself to be a man who trusts fantasy and imagination?
-

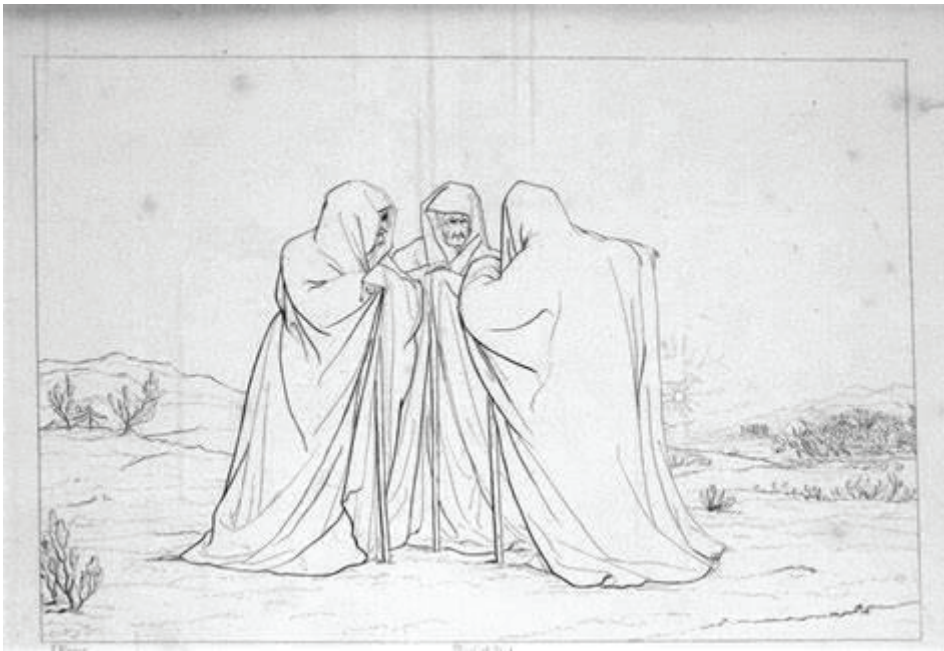
## Scene 3

### Lines 1 - 88

#### Answers:

1. The 'foul' image.
2. No.
3. They emphasise the unnatural aspect of the Witches.
4. Banquo does not trust his eyes and by asking whether they are women or men he is questioning whether their appearance is real or imaginary.
5. Unlike Macbeth he tests the questions the appearance of things so that he can arrive at the truth of the matter.
6. The first Witch tells Banquo that he will not be as great as Macbeth in a political way, but in another way he will be greater than Macbeth. The Second witch Tells Banquo that even though he will not have the happiness of becoming a king, he nevertheless will be much happier than Macbeth. The third Witch tells him that he will be the father of future Kings even though he will not be king himself.
7. Because he has already had secret and quilty ambitions of becoming king.
8. He will not be deceived by the 'outward ... show' (line 54) He will not accept the outward superficial glory of power if it means that he has to sacrifice his own inner honour.
9. The 'present grace ... great prediction of noble having ... and royal hope'.
10. No.
11. Banquo.
12. The Witches.
13. That the Witches have not given him sufficient information.
14. That he possible already has ambitions for power.
15. Because this is an area as barren and withered as his won life is to become.
16. The sense of ambiguity.

17. That the Witches appeared to have bodies of flesh and blood, but in reality were as insubstantial as breath.
18. Earth, water and air.
19. Hemlock which was frequently used by Witches to cause temporary madness, thus deceiving men's eyes.
20. No. He is unhappy when events cannot be measured by reason.



## Scene 3

### Lines 89 - 157

#### Questions:

1. What must Angus do?

---

2. What is the meaning of the words 'Nothing afeard ... of death'?

---

3. What is the meaning of the words: 'As thick ... before him'?

---

4. What is the meaning of Macbeth's words: "Why do you dress me in borrow'd robes"?

---

5. Who has an 'inner royalty of nature'?

---

6. Of whom could it be said that he 'bears that life which he deserves to lose' (lines 110-111)

---

7. Banquo warns Macbeth that he must be careful about what the Witches say because ...

---

8. What are the "two truths" of line 127?

---

9. Explain the indecision that Macbeth feels when he tries to convince himself about the promptings he has received from the Witches?

---

10. Explain Macbeth's feelings in lines 130-137

---

11. What is the meaning of lines 132-133?

---

12. Give the meaning of lines 137-138

---

13. Explain line 42

---

14. What does the use of the metaphor of clothes remind us of?

---

15. Explain lines 147-148.

---

16. What do we see beneath Macbeth's outward appearance of bravery, as exemplified on the battlefield?

---

17. Why did Banquo address Macbeth as 'Worthy Macbeth'?

---

18. Explain Macbeth's excuse by saying that he was 'thinking of things forgotten'. (lines 151).

---

19. What is the meaning of the words 'free heart'? (lines 156)

---

## Scene 3

### Lines 89 - 157

#### Answers:

1. He must delay the King's congratulations and escort Macbeth to see Duncan who wants to honour him by giving him the title Thane of Cawdor.
2. The words refer to Macbeth's fearlessness in battle while he is slaughtering the enemy.
3. The words mean that messengers on horseback are arriving thick and fast to tell the King of the good work done by Macbeth.
4. The words reflect an image which recurs throughout the play. The 'Thane of Cawdor' would wear distinguishing robes to mark his high rank and Macbeth means that he cannot wear them by right because the Thane is still alive. Ross has 'borrowed' the robes from the Thane and 'lent' them to Macbeth in the form of the title by which he has addressed him. However, his words are to take on a far greater significance than his. Macbeth, once he has murdered Duncan and become King himself, learns the bitter lesson that, although he might wear the outer wrappings of royalty, the crown and the King's robes, this does not make him 'royal' by nature. It is not enough to look like a King, one must also be a King.
5. Banquo.
6. Macbeth.
7. Often the spirits of evil (the Witches) tell the truth about unimportant details in order to win a person's confidence and they betray them in more important matters.
8. The titles by which the first and second Witches greeted Macbeth: 'Thane of Glamis' and 'Thane of Cawdor'
9. The indecision that he feels is reflected at this point when he asks why, if their prophecies are evil, they have bothered to have them confirmed by telling him of one prophecy which has already come true – the fact that he is Thane of Cawdor. On the other hand if they are good then why does he allow himself to be tempted to

commit murder in order that the rest of the prophecy may come true.

10. He would appear to be heeding Banquo's warning that the Witches 'prophecies' might have been deceitful, and that what appears to be good might in reality be evil; that what appears to be 'fair might well turn out to be foul'.
11. If the Witches intend evil why then have they given him a sign which has already come true? If this is so they cannot intend evil.
12. An object of fear that is before him in a concrete shape, is much less horrible than one that has been created by his imagination.
13. Banquo who is a realist, thinks Macbeth has lost himself in thought because he has been created Thane of Cawdor. He himself would never conceive of murdering anyone, let alone his King. But Macbeth is unaware of Banquo's presence and continues to soliloquise as though alone.
14. Macbeth's 'Why do you dress me in borrow'd robes?'
15. He believes that as a result of the Witches prophecy fate is on his side. Later he will challenge fate to 'champion to th'utterance'
16. The highly imaginative mind that his appearance hides and that he is a man consumed with guilt and terrified at what his mind is telling him to do.
17. Because he did not know Macbeth's thoughts.
18. He is lying for we know that he was thinking of murdering Duncan.
19. Macbeth, once a honest man, is caught in the traps of intrigue and deceit and will never be able to speak with a free heart'.

## Scene 4

### Lines 1-47

#### Questions:

1. The scene opens with an exchange between father and son, king and prince, suggesting that the natural laws of succession will prevail from now on. What will soon shatter all this?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does Duncan say that a man should not be judged by the way he looks?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does Duncan's comment touch on?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Lady Macbeth mean when she warns Macbeth that 'his face ... is a book, where men may read strange matters'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is shown by Duncan's greeting 'O worthies cousin'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Duncan's praise of Macbeth remind us of?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What do we note in the comparison between duty and 'children' in line 25?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Give examples of images throughout the play which are taken from Nature?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What do all these words suggest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What will destroy the natural, creative harmony in the play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What do Duncan, Banquo and Macbeth represent?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How will political and natural harmony be restored?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Scene 4

### Lines 1-47

#### Answers:

1. Macbeth's treachery.
2. Because he had trusted the Thane of Cawdor implicitly.
3. On one of the main themes of the play: the contrast between appearance and reality.
4. She warns him that he must be careful to hide his true thoughts.
5. He trusted Macbeth absolutely.
6. Of Macbeth's good qualities.
7. It makes it seem that Macbeth looks on Duncan as a father, thus making his deception all the more diabolical.
8. 'Plant' (line 28); 'growing' (line 29); 'harvest' (lines 32-33).
9. The force of life, an idea reinforced by the words 'fuel' (line 29), 'plenteous' (line 33) and 'fullness' (line 34).
10. The murdering of Duncan and Banquo by Macbeth because the kingdom under his rule will become as barren as the health of which he met the Witches.
11. Duncan and Banquo are representatives of the forces of procreative life, whereas Macbeth is representative of the force of death and destruction.
12. Malcolm will be restored to the throne and Banquo's children will be the future kings of Scotland.

**Scene 4**  
**Lines 48-58**

**Questions:**

1. What is the meaning of Macbeth's words 'for in my way it lies'  
(line 50)?

---

2. What is the meaning of Macbeth's words 'What hands are here!  
Ha! they pluck mine eyes'.

---

3. Is the 'care' Lady Macbeth has taken really to bid welcome to  
Duncan?

---

## Scene 4

### Lines 48-58

#### Answers:

1. They are indicative of his driving ambition for power. Nothing will be allowed to stand in his way.
2. Although Macbeth tries to turn away his own eye of conscience from the horror of his acts he will not be able to escape retribution.
3. No. It is to plan the murder of Duncan with Macbeth.

“A heavy summons lies like lead upon me, And yet I would not sleep”

Quote: Banquo

In this simile, Banquo openly confesses the witches' predictions are preying on his mind making him feel a sense of guilt. His transparency contrasts with Macbeth who denies having any thoughts about the witches when he says “I think not of them”

## Scene 5

### Lines 1-29

#### Questions:

1. What does the 'success' refer to in line 1?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is Macbeth eager to believe the Witches?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does Macbeth call Lady Macbeth his 'dearest partner in greatness'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What do these words also reveal?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What price is Lady Macbeth to pay for the promised greatness?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the meaning of the words 'compunctious visitings of nature'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What purpose does Lady Macbeth's assessment of Macbeth's character achieve?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What does the imperative tone of 'shalt be' betray?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Explain Lady Macbeth's description of Macbeth: 'wouldst not play false' (line 21).  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Give two examples in the play where the phrase 'th' milk of human kindness' is echoed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the meaning of 'To catch the nearest way'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What is the meaning of 'the seeds of time'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What does Lady Macbeth's words 'I feel now/the future in the instant' reveal?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 
14. Explain the use of 'illness' (line 20) and 'holity' (line 21).
- 
15. Explain Macbeth's words: 'Fair face must hide what the false heart doth know'
- 
16. What do the words 'And yet wouldst wrongly win' suggest?
- 
17. Why are the words 'And yet' significant?
- 
18. What do lines 22-25 reveal?
- 
19. What do the 'my' and 'thine' of line 26 emphasise?
- 
20. What is the meaning of 'The golden round'? (line 28)
- 
21. What is the meaning of the 'fate and metaphysical aid'? (line 29)
- 
22. Give the meaning of 'Withal'?
- 
23. What is our first impression of Lady Macbeth?
-

## Scene 5

### Lines 1-29

#### Answers:

1. To Macbeth's victories against the rebels and against the King of Norway.
2. To justify his 'deep desires' for power.
3. The words suggest that Lady Macbeth has had an influence on Macbeth's career in the past and that she is as much concerned with his political advancement as he is.
4. The close bond there is between the two of them.
5. Insanity and eventually death.
6. Any natural feelings of conscience and tenderness.
7. It anticipates the struggle between good and evil that he will have to undergo within himself. It tells us much more about Macbeth himself and it reveals Lady Macbeth's ruthless ambition for power.
8. Lady Macbeth's determination to impose her will on Macbeth and so induce him to murder.
9. She describes him as humane, ambitious but not ruthless and honest. These are the qualities of a good man, yet Lady Macbeth treats them as faults! So we find them in the world of inverted moral values (where 'fair is foul, and foul is fair').
10. When Lady Macbeth calls on the spirits (line 39) to invert the laws of nature and take her 'milk for gall' (line 48).  
When Malcom says 'I should/Pour the sweet milk of concord into hell'.
11. To take the shortest route to the throne.
12. The natural laws of time.
13. Her impatience for power.
14. 'Illness' means evilness and is contrasted with the word 'holity'.
15. He will have to learn how to be deceitful and dishonest.
16. That Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have previously discussed the murder of Duncan.

17. It pinpoints the conflict in Macbeth; in him there are the elements of good but there is also in him that which leads him towards evil.
18. The conflict between fear and desire.
19. The difference between lady Macbeth and Macbeth.
20. The crown.
21. The Witches' prophesies.
22. It means already, and once again reveals Lady Macbeth's impatience.
23. She is a ruthlessly ambitious woman who is capable of great evil.

“O hell kite ... all my pretty chickens ... at one fell swoop”

Quote: Macduff

Macduff likens Macbeth to a “kite’ bird of prey who has cruelly killed his innocent “chickens”. He may immense feel guilt as he was not present to protect his family.

## Scene 5

### Lines 30 - 73

#### Questions:

1. What does Lady Macbeth's 'Thou'rt mad to say it' betray?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Name the two levels of the preparations for Duncan's arrival?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of bird is a raven?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Explain the reference to 'my battlements'  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which words refer to murdering Duncan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Give the meaning of 'Mortal thoughts'.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Which word is mentioned frequently (over 100 times) in the play?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What does Lady Macbeth ask in lines 45-47?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What is further emphasised by Lady Macbeth's words that a woman who has 'given suck' and has known 'how tender 'is to love the babe that milks her changed to gall'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What do these words refer to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What do 'sightless substances' and 'invisible being' refer to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What is a 'Pall'?  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. Why does Lady Macbeth assure Macbeth that Duncan will not leave the following morning?

---

14. Explain Lady Macbeth's words 'And I feel now/the future in the instant'? (lines 57-58)

---

15. Give the meaning of lines 60-61.

---

16. Explain the meaning of 'Provide for'?

---

17. Which qualities of Macbeth might ruin the 'great business' of murder?

---

18. What do lines 69-70 express?

---

19. What does Macbeth's answer 'we will speak further' reveal?

---

20. What does Lady Macbeth's words 'Leave all the test to me' reveal?

---

## Scene 5

### Lines 30 - 73

#### Answers:

1. She has been thinking of Duncan throughout, and thus the messenger's announcement of his arrival comes as a quilty shock to her, as is revealed by her involuntary remark.
2. The usual preparations for a King.  
Preparations for murdering a King.
3. It symbolizes a bird of evil.
4. She is so committed with the Act of murder that she has taken all things associated with that act unto herself.
5. 'The fatal entrance of Duncan'
6. Thoughts of murder.
7. The word blood.
8. She asks that no natural feelings divert her from her dreadful purpose and from carrying it out.
9. The unnaturalness.
10. They refer to Lady Macbeth's comment that Macbeth 'is too full of th'milk of human kindness' and Malcolm's reference to the 'sweet milk of concord'.
11. The witches who vanished into thin air.
12. The black cloth that is spread over a coffin and is thus associated with death.
13. Because he will be dead.
14. These words reveal her eager anticipation of royal power.
15. Duncan will not live through the night as these words suggest that from now on there will be perpetual night for him. In a sense this will apply to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth too – if they kill him.
16. On the surface these words mean that preparations must be made for the King's visit, but here they are an almost explicit reference to his impending death.

17. His goodness and lack of decisiveness.
18. Lady Macbeth's lust for power.
19. That he has not fully committed himself and that the struggle between good and evil has yet to be resolved.
20. It reveals her plan to impose her diabolical will on Macbeth.

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3 SAT	3 TUE	3 TUE	3 FRI	3 SUN	3 WED	3 FRI	3 MON	3 THU	3 SAT	3 TUE	3 THU
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5 MON	5 THU	5 THU	5 SUN	5 TUE	5 FRI	5 SUN	5 WED	5 SAT	5 MON	5 THU	5 SAT
6 TUE	6 FRI	6 FRI	6 MON	6 WED	6 SAT	6 MON	6 THU	6 SUN	6 TUE	6 FRI	6 SUN
7 WED	7 SAT	7 SAT	7 TUE	7 THU	7 SUN	7 TUE	7 FRI	7 MON	7 WED	7 SAT	7 MON
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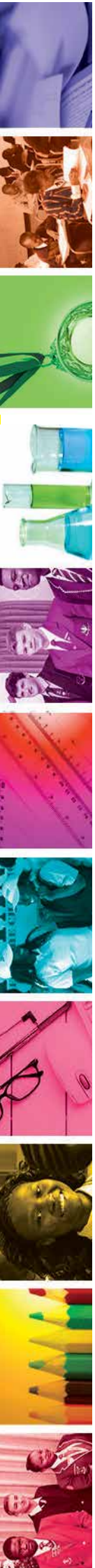
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Olympiad Entry Fees 2026: Grade 10 11 12

\*TOTAL COST for all subjects, both rounds per year  
R 100 per learner (Early Bird deadline 26 Feb)  
R 120 per learner (Final Deadline 22 April)

Olympiad Entry Fees 2026: Grade 9

R 60-00 per learner (Early Bird deadline 26 Feb)  
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