

MACBETH: Mock Questions

Use these questions to practise drafting responses. Use the mark scheme on the website to assess yourself.

Questions on CHARACTER

- Write about how the character Macbeth is presented in the play.
- Write about how Lady Macbeth is presented in Macbeth.
- Explain the significance of the 'weird sisters' in Macbeth.
- Explain the importance of Macduff in Macbeth.
- Write about Banquo and the way he is presented in Macbeth.
- Write about the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

Questions on THEME

- Write about the theme of power and how it is presented in Macbeth.
- Write about the theme of the supernatural in the Macbeth.
- Write about the theme of good and evil and how it is presented in Macbeth.
- How is the contrast between good kings and bad kings presented in the play?
- Write about the theme of ambition and its significance in Macbeth.
- Write about the theme of loyalty and how it is presented in Macbeth.
- Explore the significance of guilt in Macbeth.

SCROLL DOWN FOR EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS:

EXTRACT-BASED questions

What does this extract show an audience about Macbeth's state of mind at this point in the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer.

MACBETH:

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppresèd brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' th' other senses,
Or else worth all the rest. I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing.
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half-world
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtained sleep. Witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings, and withered murder,
Alarumed by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives.
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

What does the extract show the audience about Macbeth's state of mind at this point in the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer.

MACBETH:

To be thus is nothing,
But to be safely thus. Our fears in Banquo
Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature
Reigns that which would be feared. 'Tis much he dares,
And to that dauntless temper of his mind
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valor
To act in safety. There is none but he
Whose being I do fear, and under him
My genius is rebuked, as it is said
Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters
When first they put the name of king upon me
And bade them speak to him. Then, prophetlike,
They hailed him father to a line of kings.
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown
And put a barren scepter in my grip,
Thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered;
Put rancors in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man,
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!
Rather than so, come fate into the list,
And champion me to th' utterance. Who's there?

What impression does the audience get of Macduff at this point in the play?
Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer.

MACDUFF:

O horror, horror, horror! Tongue nor heart
Cannot conceive nor name thee!

MACBETH AND LENNOX:

What's the matter?

MACDUFF:

Confusion now hath made his masterpiece!
Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope
The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence
The life o' the building!

MACBETH:

What is 't you say? the life?

LENNOX:

Mean you his majesty?

MACDUFF:

Approach the chamber, and destroy your sight
With a new Gorgon: do not bid me speak;
See, and then speak yourselves.

Exeunt MACBETH and LENNOX

Awake, awake!

Ring the alarum-bell. Murder and treason!
Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!
Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,
And look on death itself! up, up, and see
The great doom's image! Malcolm! Banquo!
As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprites,
To countenance this horror! Ring the bell.

What impression does the audience get of Banquo at this point in the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer.

Enter BANQUO

BANQUO:

Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and, I fear,
Thou play'dst most foully for't: yet it was said
It should not stand in thy posterity,
But that myself should be the root and father
Of many kings. If there come truth from them--
As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine--
Why, by the verities on thee made good,
May they not be my oracles as well,
And set me up in hope? But hush! no more.

What impression does an audience get of the witches in this extract? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer.

*SCENE I. A cavern. In the middle, a boiling cauldron.
Thunder. Enter the three Witches*

First Witch:

Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.

Second Witch:

Thrice and once the hedge-pig whined.

Third Witch:

Harpier cries 'Tis time, 'tis time.

First Witch:

Round about the cauldron go;
In the poison'd entrails throw.
Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot.

ALL:

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

Second Witch:

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

ALL:

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.