# *Macbeth* Test Review

Act I

1. Why does Duncan name Macbeth Thane of Cawdor in scene ii?
2. What do we learn about the witches through the story of the sailor in scene iii? What does this foreshadow?
3. By what three titles do the witches address Macbeth in scene iii?
4. What are the three predictions that they make for Banquo?
5. In scene iv Duncan names the heir to his throne. Who is it? What title does he receive? Why is this news unwelcome to Macbeth?
6. Although Lady Macbeth and Macbeth plot to kill Duncan, Macbeth begins to have second thoughts about the murder in scene vii. Which of his relationships to the King argue against Macbeth murdering him?
7. Which country is invading Scotland?
8. Who does Duncan order executed because of his treachery?
9. Who do you see as stronger, Macbeth or his wife? Describe their argument at the end of Act I.

Act II

1. Explain the nature of the dagger Macbeth sees in scene i before he murders Duncan.
2. After murdering Duncan, Macbeth is distraught. What does Lady Macbeth mean when she says, “Consider it not so deeply.” What is the difference between his state of mind and hers at this point?
3. Why does Macbeth imagine that he will “sleep no more?”
4. Why does Macbeth think the blood on his hands will redden all the seas?
5. What is the irony in the porter’s answering the door with the comment, “Who’s there in the name of Belzebub?”
6. Why do Donalbain and Malcolom flee Scotland?
7. Scene iv describes unnatural disturbances that occurred during the night. How do they foreshadow the flight of the king’s sons?

Act III

1. As Banquo considers that Macbeth has become king, what does he muse about as he remembers the Weird Sisters?
2. When Macbeth says, “O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!” what do the scorpions represent?
3. In scene i, lines 115—125 how does Macbeth explain to the assassins the reason why they must secretly kill Banquo for him?
4. When Macbeth begins talking to Banquo’s ghost, what does Lady Macbeth do?
5. What does Banquo’s ghost represent for Macbeth?
6. How does Hecate plan to ensure Macbeth’s downfall?

Act IV

1. When the witch says “Something wicked this way comes,” whom is she referring to?
2. What are the three apparitions that the witches conjure and what does each foretell?
3. What is Macbeth’s plan after hearing that none born of woman shall harm him?
4. What is the significance of the eight kings?
5. What is Lady Macduff’s reaction to the messenger who warns her to flee her home? What is her ultimate fate?
6. How does Malcolm ascertain that he can trust Macduff?
7. After Macduff receives the news from home what do he and Malcolm decide to do next?

Act V

1. What are the three events Lady Macbeth broods over in her sleepwalking scene?
2. What is the significance of
   1. Sleepwalking
   2. Rubbing of her hands
   3. Insisting on a light?
3. What is the significance of Malcolm’s orders to cut down the Birnam tree branches for camouflage?
4. How does Macbeth reassure himself that Malcolm and Macduff are not a threat to him?
5. What is the doctor’s diagnosis of Lady Macbeth? What does Macbeth ask the doctor to do?
6. Sum up Macbeth’s reaction to his wife’s death.
7. In scene 8 what does Macbeth realize about the predictions of the witches and apparitions?
8. Who becomes the new king of Scotland in the end?
9. The language of Shakespeare is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. A tragedy produces emotions of pity and fear; the cleansing of these emotions is known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (p. 321)