Act II scene i Questions

1. Banquo tells Macbeth that he will talk about the witches’ prophecies “as long as I lose no honor in seeking to add to what I already have - always keeping my heart free from evil and my loyalties spotless.” What does this statement say about Banquo’s character?
2. What does Macbeth see in a vision? Why did he see it? What appears on the object?

Act II scene ii

1. Why didn’t Lady Macbeth murder the king personally? What does this reason say about her character?
2. What *couldn’t* Macbeth do that the guards *could* do?
3. What did Macbeth think he heard? How does this statement connect back to the witches? (think back to Act I scene iii)
4. What does Lady Macbeth say about the blood? What does she tell Macbeth to do? What do these things say about her character?
5. Does Macbeth regret his actions in this scene? **Use textual evidence to support your answer.**

Act II scene iii

1. What is the weather like in this scene? What strange things are happening? Pay attention to Lennox. What do these events symbolize?
2. What does Macduff tell Lady Macbeth about the murder? Why does he tell her this? Explain how it is **ironic** that he treats her this way. (think about her actions in previous scenes and what we know about her character)
3. Who do the characters think performed the murder? Who killed the servants and why?
4. Where are Malcolm and Donalbain going? Why are they leaving?

Act II scene iv

1. What strange things are happening at the beginning of this scene? What do these occurrences symbolize?
2. For what reason does Macduff say the servants committed the crime? Who does he think is *really* behind the murders and why?

Act III scene i

1. In his short soliloquy, what does Banquo accuse Macbeth of doing to fulfill all three prophecies?
2. What does Macbeth say about Banquo in his soliloquy? What does he plan to do to him?
3. Who comes to visit Macbeth? When did they originally meet with him?
4. What does Macbeth tell his visitors/how does he treat them? **Use textual support.** How does his treatment of them mirror how Lady Macbeth treats Macbeth? (how is the treatment similar?)
5. What does the first guest tell Macbeth? “We are only mortal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, my lord.” What does his comment relate to thematically?
6. What does Macbeth compare his visitors to?
7. Macbeth tells his visitors, “now you show your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”: What exactly does Macbeth believe to be the “\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” of his visitors? How does this idea relate back to a theme?

Act III scene ii

1. Lady Macbeth says, “Nothing’s gained and everything’s lost.” Of what is her statement reminiscent (what does it remind you of from a previous scene)? Think about the **ambiguity** of the statement.
2. Lady Macbeth also says, “we’ve got everything we desired but remain uneasy. It would be better to be the one we murdered than to live in uncertain joy because of our murder.” What does she mean?
3. What **metaphor** does Macbeth make concerning the murder? What does the king get to do that Macbeth cannot do?
4. What does Macbeth tell Lady Macbeth when she asks about his newest plans? What does his response tell the reader about their relationship? How has it changed?
5. What does Macbeth ask to “come?” What does this object signify/represent?

Act III scene iii

1. How many murderers are now present? Why is this number significant? (literary device)
2. Who escapes from the scene? What happens that allows him/her to escape?

Act III scene iv

1. How does Macbeth compliment the First Murderer? Include a specific quote. What does this say about Macbeth’s character, considering the guilt (or lack thereof) of the victim?
2. How does Macbeth react to the news from the First Murderer? Why does he react this way? (think about the prophecies from the Three Witches)
3. Why doesn’t Macbeth sit down at the table?
4. What question does Lady Macbeth ask Macbeth and how does it relate to the theme of gender/masculinity in the text?
5. What does Macbeth tell his guests after the ghost disappears? “I am a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ again.” Why is this comment significant?
6. Macbeth says, “the murdered will have revenge, they say; bloodshed requires more bloodshed.” What does he mean? What does he plan to do? What does it say about his character?
7. What does Macbeth “keep” in each of the nobles’ houses. Do you think good leaders need to have these in their constituents’ (people) homes?
8. Macbeth says, “we are still only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in evil.” What does this statement mean? What events does it imply/foreshadow?

Act III scene v

1. What does Hecate say “is mortals’ greatest enemy?” What characters have this flaw? Use textual support in your answer.

Act III scene vi

1. Lennox is speaking **ironically** in that he is saying the opposite of what he truly means. Explain how his opening words are ironic.
2. What are Malcolm and Macduff planning?

Act IV scene i

1. How many times has “the streaked cat...mewed?” What literary technique does this number represent?
2. What do the witches tell Macbeth that they are doing? Use a direct quote.
3. What ***three apparitions*** does Macbeth see and what do ***each*** of them prophecize?
4. How does Macbeth react to the apparitions’ prophecies? Use textual evidence to support your answer.
5. Where has Macduff gone? What does Macbeth plan to do to Macduff?

Act IV scene ii

1. What does Lady Macduff think Macduff has done? How does she feel about him?
2. What does the messenger tell Lady Macduff is going to happen to her? How does she respond? What does her response tell the reader about her character?

Act IV scene iii

1. What is Macduff trying to convince Malcolm to do?
2. What vices, or poor character traits, does Malcolm say he has? Why does he describe himself this way? What was he trying to accomplish?
3. How does Macduff react to the news from Ross? What does this say about his character? How does his character **juxtapose** that of Macbeth?
4. Malcolm tells Macduff that he should avenge it ”\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.” Macduff responds, saying, “I shall do so, but I must also feel it \_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.” What does he mean by this statement? How does it connect back to the theme of gender?

Act V scene i

1. What ritual has Lady Macbeth been doing while sleepwalking? (“I have seen her…) Include all steps.
2. What does Lady Macbeth have with her at all times? Why does she always have it with her?
3. What is Lady Macbeth trying to remove? Does it really exist?
4. Lady Macbeth “is in more need of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Why is this so?

Act V scene ii

1. Fill in the following blanks: “What’s the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Macbeth doing?” “The men he commands follow him only because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not because they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him.” What does these comments say about Macbeth as a leader?

Act V scene iii

1. When does Macbeth say he will “weaken with fear?”
2. What is the name of Macbeth’s servant? What does his name sound similar to? Why is his name significant?
3. Is Macbeth concerned about the health of his wife? Use textual evidence to support your answer. What does his reaction say about his character?

Act V scene iv

1. What does Malcolm tell the soldiers to do and why?
2. Malcolm says, “men of both lesser and greater ranks have revolted against him, and those who continue to serve him do so only by force, for their hearts aren’t with him, either.” What does this quote say about Macbeth as a leader? Who else has made this type of comment about his leadership style?

Act V scene v

1. What has Macbeth “almost forgotten?” What does this comment say about the transformation of his character?
2. Who has died? How does the king react? Use textual evidence to support your answer.
3. What is moving? How is this possible, thinking about what Malcolm commanded his troops to do in the previous scene?

Act V scene vi

1. To what are the trumpets giving “breath?” How does this connect back to one of the themes of the play?

Act V scene vii

1. For what reason is Macbeth *still* not afraid?
2. Who does Macbeth kill?
3. The castle “surrendered without a fight.” What does this say about Macbeth’s power/influence as a leader?

Act V scene viii

1. For what reason does Macbeth tell Macduff to “get back from” him?
2. How is it possible that Macduff was not “born of woman?” Use textual evidence and explain what it means. There is a footnote on the left page to guide you.
3. How will Macbeth be remembered, according to Macduff?
4. Young Siward is said to have “died like a man” and his father, Siward, comments that he “couldn’t wish [a] finer death” for him. What does this comment say about how violence is viewed by the characters?
5. What does Macduff bring to Malcolm?
6. What happened to Lady Macbeth? Who do you think is really responsible for what happened to her and why? Use examples from the text to support your reasoning.