***Macbeth* Test – Study Guide Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. What prophecies were given during the course of the play?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Character | Prophecy |
| Banquo | 1. |
| Macbeth | 1.  2.  3.  4.  5. |

1. Who does Macbeth kill over the course of the play? How? Why?

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| --- | --- |
| Character Killed by Macbeth | How he killed them, and reason he had to kill them |
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1. Describe Lady Macbeth’s death and downfall. How did she die? What was she like before she died?
2. What is Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s plan to kill Duncan? Who encouraged it? Who does it? Why can’t the other do it? How is it done? Who gets framed (what was their motive)? What happens afterwards? Who discovers the body?
3. What happens to Fleance?
4. Describe the relationship between Macbeth and Macduff. What does Macduff do to Macbeth? What does Macbeth do to Macduff?
5. What was happening at the start of the play? Who was fighting? Who were the traitors? What did Macbeth do? What happened to the traitors?
6. Describe Lady Macbeth and Macbeth’s relationship. How does she characterize her husband when we first meet her?
7. What is the purpose of the Porter? What wisdom does he impart?
8. How does Banquo’s death come about? Who kills him? What was their reasoning?
9. What is paradox?
10. What is dramatic irony?
11. What is a metaphor?
12. What is an aside?
13. What is a simile?
14. Detail the events of Macbeth’s downfall.
15. What was the inspiration for Macbeth? (Consult your context notes from the beginning of the unit!)
16. What kind of play is Macbeth?
17. Describe Macduff’s visit to England. How is he received? What news is he brought? What does he decide?
18. How are the prophecies fulfilled?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prophecy | How it came true |
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|  |  |

**Characters**

What do you know about the following characters?

Macbeth

Lady Macbeth

Duncan

Malcolm

Donalbain

Banquo

Fleance

Macduff

Lady Macduff

Macduff’s son

Ross

Lennox

Seyton

Porter

Captain/Sergeant

Siward

Young Siward

Doctor

Gentlewoman

Murderers

Witches

Hecate

**Quotes**

Identify the speaker and context for the following quotes.

Thou hast it now: King, Cawdor, Glamis, all as the weird women promised; and I fear thou plays’t most foully for it.

(Act Three Scene One)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

Unnatural deeds do breed unnatural troubles.

(Act 5 Scene One)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

It will have blood they say; blood will have blood.

(Act 3 Scene 4)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

Despair thy charm; and let the angel whom thou hast served tell thee, Macduff was from his mother’s womb untimely ripped.

(Act 5 Scene 8)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

What’s done is done.

(Act 3 Scene 2)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

I shall do so, but first I must also feel it as a man.

(Act 4 Scene 3)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

She should have died hereafter;

There would have been a time for such a word.

Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow,

Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,

To the last syllable of recorded time;

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools

The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage

And then is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury

Signifying nothing.

(Act 5 Scene 6)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

Yet do I fear thy nature; it is too full of the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way.

(Act One Scene Five)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

He’s here in double trust:

First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,

Strong both against the deed; then as his host,

Who should against his murderer shut the door,

Not bear the knife myself.

(Act One Scene 7)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

The thane of Fife has a wife: where is she now? What! Will these hands ne’er be clean? No more o’ that my lord, no more o’ that: you mar all with this starting.

(Act Five Scene One)

**Speaker:**

**Context:**

**Written (30 marks)**

Choose **one** of the following questions and answer on lined paper. Please double space.

Essay Question:

* 1. The fantastical and grotesque witches are among the most memorable figures in the play. How does Shakespeare characterize the witches? What is their thematic significance?
  2. Compare and contrast Macbeth, Macduff, and Banquo. How are they alike? How are they different? Is it possible to argue that Macbeth is the play’s villain and Macduff or Banquo its hero, or is the matter more complicated than that?
  3. Discuss the role that blood plays in *Macbeth,* particularly immediately following Duncan’s murder and late in the play. What does it symbolize for Macbeth and his wife?
  4. Discuss Macbeth’s visions and hallucinations. What role do they play in the development of his character?
  5. Is *Macbeth* a moral play? Is justice served at the end of the play? Defend your answer.
  6. Discuss Shakespeare’s use of the technique of elision (omission), in which certain key events take place offstage. Why do you think he uses this technique?