

Gatewood's Classroom
Macbeth Act I Quiz

Answer the following questions with complete information, although you do not have to write complete sentences. Use the number of points to guide you in the detail of response which you need to provide.

1. *Eschatology* involves the study of end things, signs of judgment or death. How does this term relate to Act 1, Scene 1? Who appears and what paradox do they say which sets a sort of an ominous tone? (3)
2. The story opens *in media res*, in the middle of the action. Explain the context of the action—the main event and key players. What is the fate of the rebel Macdonwald and the traitor Thane of Cawdor? In the course of this discussion, explain the title that Macbeth has earned and why he has earned it. (5)
3. Explain how the *allusion* to Golgotha works in the context of Act 1, Scene 2. (2)
4. A *kenning* is a compound word or phrase which renames a noun, sometimes in a metaphorical sense. What kenning do the witches use to describe the sailor's wife in Act 1, Scene 3. What are they planning to do to spite her and her husband? What does the side note say about the etymology of the witches' name? (3)
5. Describe the appearance of the witches. What three titles do they bestow upon Macbeth? What predictions do they offer Banquo? (5)
6. What does Ross, a noble of Scotland, reveal to Macbeth, which Macbeth finds interesting as revealed in an *aside*? Define aside and discuss what "horrid image doth unfix (Macbeth's) hair?" (3)

7. What does Duncan tell his son Malcolm? Why does Macbeth respond to this declaration in an aside by saying, “I must fall down or else o’erleap?” Where is the noble party heading? (3)
8. Define *soliloquy*. What does Lady Macbeth’s soliloquy reveal about her thoughts on her husband after reading his letter in Act 1, Scene 5? What is her plan for her husband? (3)
9. Examine Lady Macbeth’s *soliloquy* in Act 1, Scene 5, Lines 45-60. List several examples of *diction* (key words or phrases) which expose her motivations and character. (4)
10. When Lady Macbeth instructs her husband with the *metaphor*, “Look like th’ innocent flower, / But be the serpent under ‘t,” what is she telling her husband to do? (2)
11. Define *irony*. How is the setting in Act 1, Scene 6, Lines 1-12 ironic? (3)
12. In considering the “assassination,” what two reasons does Macbeth offer against it at the beginning of Act 1, Scene 7? What reason does he give for it, which “o’erleaps” the other two? (3)
13. Discuss the *tone* of Lady Macbeth in her talk with her husband. What kinds of things does she say to him? What would she be willing to do to uphold a “swear”? (3)
14. What is Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s game plan related to Duncan’s stay at Inverness? (2)