

Use your knowledge of *Macbeth* and of critical literary analysis to answer these questions.

NAME

DATE

- 1** Macbeth struggles with the decision to kill Duncan, and is later haunted by guilt due to his actions. This is an example of which type of conflict?
- A Man vs. Nature
  - B Man vs. Self
  - C Man vs. Society
  - D Man vs. Self
- 2** In Act 1, Scene 4, Duncan states, "There's no art/ To find the mind's construction in the face:/ He was a gentleman on whom I built/ An absolute trust." This is an example of which literary device?
- A Situational irony
  - B Euphemism
  - C Antithesis
  - D Dramatic irony
- 3** A floating dagger appears before Macbeth prior to killing Duncan. What does this dagger symbolize?
- A Macbeth's conscience as he struggles with the idea of murdering Duncan
  - B The witches' prophecy and the power it has to influence Macbeth
  - C Macbeth's ambition to become the king
  - D Lady Macbeth's ambition to become more powerful



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**4** Which excerpt from *Macbeth* uses a metaphor?

- A "This is the sergeant/ Who like a good and hardy soldier fought/ 'Gainst my captivity."
- B "Kind gentlemen, your pains,/ Are register'd, where every day I turn/ The leaf to read them."
- C "He that's coming/ Must be provided for: and you shall put/ This night's great business into my despatch."
- D "Our castle's strength/ Will laugh a siege to scorn."

**5** William Shakespeare's plays can be categorized into three genres. Which genre does *Macbeth* fall under?

- A Romance
- B Comedy
- C History
- D Tragedy

**6** "Come, you spirits/ That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,/ And fill me from the crown to the toe topful/ Of direst cruelty!" In this excerpt, which theme of the play does Lady Macbeth introduce?

- A Ambition
- B Kingship
- C Gender roles
- D Guilt



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Given his interests and the context and events of his reign, why might *Macbeth* have been of interest to King James I of England?

- A Early in his reign, Guy Fawkes attempted to kill James by blowing up the English Parliament
- B James was the heir to both the English and the Scottish thrones
- C James was known to be fascinated by witchcraft and the supernatural
- D All of the above

8

“Out damned spot! Out, I say ... Yet who would have thought the old man/ to have had so much blood in him?” In this excerpt from the play, what does the spot of blood on her hand represent to Lady Macbeth?

- A Her loyalty to her husband, even as he continues to commit crimes to ensure he stays in power
- B Her desire to break away from the responsibilities traditionally placed on women
- C Her overwhelming guilt for the role she played in murdering Duncan
- D Her wish to fulfil the prophecy of the witches

9

Which reason best describes why Macbeth might be considered an anti-hero or tragic hero?

- A Macbeth’s tragic flaw of ambition leads him to commit immoral acts for his own benefit, which leads to his eventual downfall
- B The play’s antagonist, Macduff, is not generally considered to be a ‘bad guy’
- C At the beginning of the play, Macbeth has the potential for greatness, but does not live up his potential
- D Unlike some protagonists, Macbeth does not receive a happy ending at the conclusion of the play



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**10** Which of the following excerpts from the play is most clearly related to the theme of ambition?

- A "Bleed, bleed, poor country!/ Great tyranny! lay thou thy basis sure,/ For goodness dare not cheque thee."
- B "The Prince of Cumberland! That is a step/ On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,/ For in my way it lies."
- C "Thou hast it now: King, Cawdor, Glamis, all,/ As the weird women promised, and I fear/ Thou play'dst most foully for't."
- D "Sons, kinsmen, thanes,/ And you whose places are the nearest, know/ We will establish our estate upon/ Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter/ The Prince of Cumberland."

