

## Macbeth – Act 1 Revision

1. How does the setting of scene 1 help to show that this is a hostile place? (think about the weather and, for challenge, what is *missing* on this heath)
2. Why does Shakespeare design this scene so that the witches speak in rhyming couplets? Challenge – why do they also speak in a paradoxical way? Eg “Fair is foul and foul is fair”
3. How do we know from scene 2 that there has been a *brutal* battle that Macbeth and Banquo fought in?
4. How does King Duncan feel about his 2 soldiers, Macbeth and Banquo?
5. When King Duncan learns that Cawdor has been a traitor, he gives Cawdor’s title to Macbeth. “What he hath lost, Noble Macbeth hath won.” What does the word “noble” tell the audience about Macbeth? Challenge – what is the irony and foreshadowing in Duncan’s words?
6. In scene 3, Macbeth meets the witches. His very first line in the whole play is “So foul and fair a day I have not seen.” What reaction would the audience have when they hear him echo the words of the witches? Challenge – what does this scene reveal about destiny? Can you find any evidence that Macbeth may not be in control of his destiny?
7. In scene 4, Macbeth greets his King as “your highness” and emphasises his “loyalty” to the King. But when Duncan announces that Malcolm will be the next King, Macbeth says “Let not light see my black and deep desires.” What does the audience learn about appearance versus reality in this scene? Challenge – what does this scene reveal about Macbeth’s destiny?
8. In scene 5, Lady Macbeth talks about Macbeth before he returns home. What does she think of him? Challenge – does this change our view of Macbeth and his destiny?
9. How would the audience react to her asking that the spirits “unsex me”?
10. Once Macbeth returns home later in this scene, how do we know that she is actively planning to murder King Duncan? Challenge – how might she be described as the fourth witch? How does she talk to Macbeth? What about her control?
11. When Duncan arrives at the Macbeth castle in scene 6, what does he think of the place and how is he treated? Challenge – why is this ironic? (remember the context and Divine Right)

12. In scene 7, Macbeth talks himself out of murdering Duncan in his soliloquy (solo speech). What reasons does he have to not murder Duncan?
13. In the end, Lady Macbeth does persuade him. How? What does she say to him? Or accuse him of? Challenge – is she like the fourth witch in this scene?
14. Act 1 finishes with Macbeth using a rhyming couplet “fairest show ...heart doth know”. What are the audience reminded of? (Think scene 1)
15. Who do the audience feel is most to blame for the expected murder of Duncan as Act 1 closes?