Macbeth act I

Multiple Choice
Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Recalling and Interpreting (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 1)

___ 1. Which of the following best describes the mood of scene 1, in which the witches appear?
   a. confusion and upset  
   b. horror and shock  
   c. lighthearted wonder  
   d. uneasiness and gloom

___ 2. Macbeth's actions on the battlefield show him to be all of the following EXCEPT
   a. superstitious.  
   b. loyal to the king.  
   c. recklessly brave.  
   d. capable of great violence.

___ 3. The king views the Thane of Cawdor with angry contempt because of his
   a. greed.  
   b. disloyalty.  
   c. cowardliness.  
   d. incompetence.

___ 4. Upon hearing the witches' prophecies, Macbeth experiences all of the following EXCEPT
   a. a thrilling fear.  
   b. scornful disbelief.  
   c. a desire for more details.  
   d. the temptation to murder.

___ 5. In this act, what causes Macbeth's nervousness and fear?
   a. facing enemies in battle  
   b. being made Thane of Cawdor  
   c. being tempted to commit murder  
   d. coming face to face with witches

___ 6. In scene 5, Lady Macbeth's immediate reaction upon reading her husband's letter is to express doubt about
   a. her own determination.  
   b. the witches' prophecies.  
   c. Macbeth's ambition.  
   d. Macbeth's strength of will.

___ 7. Lady Macbeth says that she would sooner murder her own infant than
   a. doubt her husband.  
   b. go back on an oath.  
   c. behave in a dishonest way.  
   d. give away her husband's plan.

___ 8. Lady Macbeth asks spirits to help her
   a. make a decision.  
   b. trick her husband.  
   c. overcome temptation.  
   d. be as cruel as she needs to be.

___ 9. Macbeth is reluctant to kill Duncan at Macbeth's castle because of a "double trust," by which he means that Duncan
   a. is both his king and his guest.  
   b. and his two sons are his guests.  
   c. commands both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.  
   d. has named him both Thane of Cawdor and Thane of Glamis.

___ 10. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth intend to get away with murder by making it seem that the king
    a. committed suicide.  
    b. died of natural causes.  
    c. was murdered by others.  
    d. deserved what happened to him.

___ 11. In an aside in scene 3, Banquo wonders whether "the devil can speak true," referring to statements made by
    a. himself.  
    b. Macbeth.  
    c. the witches.  
    d. the Thane of Ross.

___ 12. What does Duncan's son Malcolm, "the Prince of Cumberland," represent to Macbeth?
    a. a "peerless kinsman"  
    b. an obstacle to the throne  
    c. an enemy not to be tangled with  
    d. a model whose deeds he should imitate

___ 13. When Duncan arrives at Inverness (Macbeth's castle), his mood is one of
    a. excitement.  
    b. impatience.  
    c. doubtful worry.  
    d. peaceful happiness.

___ 14. Lady Macbeth clearly believes that her husband's murder of Duncan would be
Short Answer

Interpreting and Evaluating (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 1)
When a play is performed, lighting, music, costumes, props, and even how the actors move are used to aid in establishing atmosphere. Summarize each scene below and note what atmosphere you think is appropriate. Then note two things that might be done in staging that scene to help establish the atmosphere.

15. Scene 4
16. Scene 7

Essay

Evaluating and Connecting (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 1)

17. In scene 7, what approaches, or strategies, does Lady Macbeth use to try to change Macbeth's mind about assassinating Duncan? Why does Macbeth finally agree?
Macbeth act I
Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. ANS: D DIF: A
2. ANS: A DIF: E
3. ANS: B DIF: E
4. ANS: B DIF: A
5. ANS: C DIF: A
6. ANS: D DIF: E
7. ANS: B DIF: A
8. ANS: D DIF: E
9. ANS: A DIF: A
10. ANS: C DIF: E
11. ANS: C DIF: A
12. ANS: B DIF: C
13. ANS: D DIF: E
14. ANS: A DIF: E

SHORT ANSWER

15. ANS:
*Answers will vary.* Possible answers:
Summary: The king and his sons thank Macbeth and Banquo for their service in battle.
Atmosphere:
• victorious, celebratory
• happy, joyous
• public, formal
Details:
• Duncan dressed in royal clothing
• brightly lit set
• use of celebratory music
• Duncan stands and moves with pride and dignity

DIF: A

16. ANS:
*Answers will vary.* Possible answers:
Summary: Macbeth loses courage to perform the murder and is chided by Lady Macbeth. Macbeth then decides to go ahead with the plan.
Atmosphere:
• private, secret
• anxious, worried, conflicted
• evil, dangerous
Details:
• dim lighting
• dark, heavy, luxurious draperies or wall hangings
• dark, somber costumes
• unsettling music
• Lady Macbeth moves decisively
ESSAY

17. ANS:

*Answers will vary.* Students could say that Lady Macbeth
- appeals to Macbeth's love for her.
- accuses him of cowardice.
- accuses him of unmanliness.
- encourages him to seize the present opportunity.
- compares her determination with his indecisiveness.
- rejects the possibility of their failure.
- presents him with a specific plan for the murder.

Students could say that Macbeth agrees because
- she is demanding that he do what he, deep down, wants to do.
- he fears seeming cowardly or unmanly.
- her plan will cast blame for the murder on Duncan's guards.