Macbeth act II

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 2)

____ 1. Banquo indicates in scene 1 that his greatest priority is
   a. his own advancement.
   b. his allegiance to Duncan.
   c. his allegiance to Macbeth.
   d. seeing the witches' prophecies fulfilled.

____ 2. As Lady Macbeth awaits Macbeth at the beginning of scene 2, she is feeling
   a. confident.
   b. morally uncertain.
   c. convinced of failure.
   d. jumpy and superstitious.

____ 3. The voice that calls out "Sleep no more! Macbeth does murder sleep" is saying that
   a. someone has witnessed Duncan's murder.
   b. Duncan will never awaken from his "sleep."
   c. Macbeth murdered Duncan while Duncan was asleep.
   d. Macbeth will never again rest with a clear conscience.

____ 4. What does Macbeth suggest was the reason he could not join in the prayer of Malcolm and Donalbain that he overheard?
   a. He has lost his faith.
   b. He feared being heard.
   c. He was overcome with guilt and horror.
   d. He was in a hurry to flee the scene of the crime.

____ 5. Macbeth refuses to return to leave the daggers with the servants because he
   a. is too exhausted and drained to move.
   b. is afraid someone will see or hear him.
   c. cannot bear to look again at what he has done.
   d. cannot bear the idea of committing another sinful act.

____ 6. The drunken porter scene serves all of the following functions EXCEPT to
   a. provide comic relief.
   b. introduce new information about Duncan's murder.
   c. bring Macduff and Lennox into the action of the play.
   d. make the murder seem even more awful by the contrast in mood.

____ 7. Macbeth murders the king's servants so that they cannot
   a. try to get away.
   b. investigate the crime.
   c. claim they were framed.
   d. protect Malcolm and Donalbain.

____ 8. Malcolm and Donalbain flee from Inverness (Macbeth's castle) because they
   a. fear for their safety.
   b. fear being accused of murder.
   c. do not want to be tempted to take revenge.
   d. want to raise support to avenge their father's death.

____ 9. In scene 1, Macbeth is clearly lying to Banquo when he says that he
   a. wants Banquo's support.
   b. dreams about the witches.
   c. never thinks about the witches.
   d. was unprepared to entertain Duncan.

____ 10. In his scene 1 soliloquy, Macbeth addresses his thoughts to all of the following EXCEPT
    a. God.
    b. Duncan.
    c. the earth.
    d. the dagger.
11. Which statement best characterizes the reactions of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth right after Duncan's murder?
   a. Both are too horrified to behave practically.
   b. Both are primarily concerned with practical matters.
   c. He is too horrified to act; she is concerned with practical matters.
   d. She is too horrified to act; he is concerned with practical matters.

12. When Malcolm and Donalbain disappear from Inverness, people assume that they
   a. have been murdered.
   b. are spreading the news.
   c. believe themselves in danger.
   d. were involved in Duncan's death.

Interpreting and Evaluating (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 2)

In this play, Shakespeare often gives animals, objects, or natural forces human qualities. Choose TWO of the following examples of personification. Indicate the letters of your choices and answer the questions.

- "Thou sure and firm-set earth, / Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear / Thy very stones prate of my whereabout" (scene 1; Macbeth's soliloquy)
- "Some say, the earth / Was feverous [feverish] and did shake" (scene 3; Lennox, upon arriving at Inverness, where Duncan, unbeknownst to Lennox, lies dead)
- "By th' clock 'tis day, / And yet dark night strangles the traveling lamp" (scene 4; Ross to the old man upon entering the castle courtyard, where they have come to find out news about Duncan's death and its repercussions)

13. What is personified? What human quality is described? What ideas or feelings are conveyed?

Essay

Evaluating and Connecting (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 2)

14. What does Macbeth's "dagger soliloquy" reveal about his intentions and his state of mind? Support your answer.
Macbeth act II
Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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

SHORT ANSWER

13. ANS:

Answers will vary.
Possible answers for "Thou sure and firm-set earth . . ."
Personified: earth and stones
Quality: being able to hear and speak
Ideas and feelings:
- Macbeth wants utter silence
- Macbeth is fearful, nervous, paranoid
- Macbeth's imagination is aroused, senses are heightened
- nature is aware of human activity
- Macbeth knows nature has reason to warn of his presence

Possible answers for "Some say, the earth . . ."
Personified: earth
Quality: being sick; having a fever and trembling or convulsing with illness
Ideas and feelings:
- the earth trembled; there were earthquakes
- something is seriously wrong
- widespread feeling of uneasiness
- danger
- nature was showing disapproval of the night's events

Possible answers for "By th' clock . . ."
Personified: night
Quality: ability to strangle
Ideas and feelings:
- it's unusually dark for daytime
- something is wrong
- violence and horror
- night is dangerous
14. **ANS:**

*Answers will vary.* Possible answers:
- He fully intends to murder Duncan.
- His commitment to this course of action makes him feel desperate.
- He knows that what he will do is wrong.
- He is not fully in his right mind.
- He knows he is not in his right mind.
- He has difficulty distinguishing between reality and fantasy.
- He is afraid.
- He is filled with the horror of the moment.