Macbeth act III practice test

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 3)

____ 1. At the beginning of scene 1, what feeling does Banquo express about the witches' prophecies?
   a. a desire to hear more
   b. a wish that they not be fulfilled
   c. a fear that they have been disastrous for Scotland
   d. a hope that they prove true for him as they have for Macbeth

____ 2. At the beginning of scene 1, what feeling does Banquo express about Macbeth?
   a. envy
   b. suspicion
   c. loyalty
   d. sadness and worry

____ 3. Macbeth's statements and behavior suggest that, since Duncan's death, he has felt
   a. deceived.
   b. smugly satisfied.
   c. uneasy and fearful.
   d. indecisive and hesitant.

____ 4. Macbeth uses all of the following ways to motivate the murderers to act EXCEPT by
   a. threatening them.
   b. appealing to their pride.
   c. filling them with hatred.
   d. hinting at the value of his gratitude.

____ 5. Macbeth's desire that his wife be "innocent of the knowledge" of his plan to kill Banquo and Fleance suggests that Macbeth
   a. no longer trusts her.
   b. has little faith in the plan.
   c. is now more decisive on his own.
   d. feels guilty about involving her in Duncan's death.

____ 6. When Macbeth claims to see a vision at the banquet, Lady Macbeth responds to him with
   a. scorn.
   b. horror.
   c. amusement.
   d. bewilderment.

____ 7. Lady Macbeth wants the banquet guests to think that Macbeth's odd behavior is the result of
   a. a lack of sleep.
   b. a recurring illness.
   c. worry over Banquo.
   d. serious mental problems.

____ 8. Who has been Macbeth's foil in the first three acts?
   a. Banquo
   b. Duncan
   c. Lady Macbeth
   d. Macbeth himself

____ 9. By the end of Act 3, who seems to be emerging as Macbeth's new foil?
   a. Lennox
   b. Macduff
   c. Lady Macbeth
   d. the murderer of Banquo

____ 10. Macbeth's resentment and fear of Banquo is primarily due to
    a. Banquo's "royalty of nature," or nobility.
    b. Banquo's "dauntless temper," or daring.
    c. Banquo's "wisdom that doth guide his valor."
    d. the prophecy that Banquo will "father a line of kings."

____ 11. Lady Macbeth's statement about Duncan's murder that "what's done is done" is ironic in that
    a. she had a major role in doing it.
    b. she is not as calm as she pretends.
    c. Macbeth's claim to the throne is still shaky.
    d. the consequences of Duncan's murder are just unfolding.

____ 12. The most significant consequence of Fleance's escape is that he can now
13. The royal feast ends abruptly as a result of
   a. Banquo's absence.
   b. Macduff's absence.
   c. Macbeth's emotional state.
   d. Lady Macbeth's emotional state.

Short Answer

14. In Act 3 Macbeth plots to murder Banquo and Fleance. What is his motive? What are the direct results of the murder attempts? What repercussions occur later?

Essay

Evaluating and Connecting (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 3)

15. Explain what you think Macbeth means in this statement in scene 1: "I am in blood / Stepped so far that, should I wade no more, / Returning were as tedious as go o'er."
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Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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

SHORT ANSWER

14. ANS:
   Answers will vary. Possible answers:
   Motive(s)
   • distrust of Banquo
   • to prevent fulfillment of prophecy.
   • to secure Macbeth's hold on throne
   • to allow Macbeth peace of mind
   Direct Results
   • Banquo is killed
   • Fleance escapes
   Repercussions
   • Fleance can still fulfill prophecy
   • Fleance free to oppose Macbeth
   • Banquo's ghost visits Macbeth
   • Macbeth goes a little crazy, behaves erratically
   DIF: A

ESSAY

15. ANS:
   Answers will vary. Students could say the statement indicates that Macbeth
   • realizes that his actions have been horribly bloody.
   • realizes that he can never set things right again, that there is no turning back.
   • believes that he can never get rid of his guilt.
   • believes that he might as well go forward.
   • finds it increasingly easy to murder those who stand in his way.
   • has gained a certain confidence in himself.
   • is resigned to fate.
DIF: C