Macbeth act V 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 5)

1. During her sleepwalking scene, Lady Macbeth seems most consumed by feelings of
   a. fear.
   b. guilt.
   c. anger.
   d. longing.

2. After observing Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking, her doctor appears to believe that she
   a. may harm herself.
   b. may harm other people.
   c. is under a witch's spell.
   d. is in danger from Macbeth.

3. Macbeth does not fear death at the hands of the rebels because he has
   a. extensive battle experience.
   b. faith in the witches' prophecies.
   c. little reason to want to go on living.
   d. no awareness of the rebels' strength.

4. What does the "tomorrow" soliloquy reveal about Macbeth?
   a. a desire for redemption
   b. a deep love for his dead wife
   c. a sense that life is meaningless
   d. a regret for "slaughterous" deeds

5. In the last scene, Macbeth fights to the death because he
   a. is given no other choice.
   b. thinks that Macduff can be easily defeated.
   c. does not believe Macduff's claim about his birth.
   d. prefers an honorable defeat to a humiliating surrender.

6. Which of the following best describes Macbeth's tragic flaw?
   a. arrogance and conceit
   b. an unchecked desire for power
   c. a willingness to trust in sorcery
   d. a tendency to act without thinking

7. It is most probable that Lady Macbeth carries a candle in scene 1 in order to
   a. make her presence known.
   b. ward off darkness, which she fears.
   c. better relive the dark night of Duncan's murder.
   d. find her way through the castle's dark passages.

8. It is most likely that the gentlewoman refuses to repeat to the doctor what she has heard Lady Macbeth say because
   a. it involves a confession.
   b. Lady Macbeth asked her not to.
   c. the gentlewoman believes it is untrue.
   d. the gentlewoman does not understand it.

9. What does Macbeth feel is needed to restore Lady Macbeth to health?
   a. prayer
   b. medicine
   c. counseling.
   d. peace in the land.

10. Macduff claims that he will be haunted by his family's ghosts until
    a. Macbeth is dead.
    b. Malcolm is crowned.
    c. he, himself, kills Macbeth.
    d. he joins his family in death.

11. Siward's concern about his son's death has mainly to do with whether that death was
    a. brave.
    b. painful.
    c. necessary.
    d. at Macbeth's hands.

Short Answer

Interpreting and Evaluating (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 5)
Various readers may have their own ideas about what was most responsible for Macbeth's downfall. For each of the possible causes common to traditional tragedy listed below, tell how you would judge the importance of the cause—not at all to extremely. Then explain why you feel as you do.

12. How important is Macbeth's tragic flaw of excessive ambition? Why do you think so?
13. How important are Macbeth's errors in judgment? Why do you think so?
14. How important is fate? Why do you think so?

**Essay**

**Evaluating and Connecting** (The Tragedy of Macbeth, Act 5)

15. What do you see as the theme of this play? Defend your answer.
Macbeth act V practice test
Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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

SHORT ANSWER

12. ANS:
   Students should not be scored in terms of how they judge the importance of each cause but on how well their reasoning supports the judgments they make. *Answers will vary.*
   Students who give significant importance to Macbeth's "tragic flaw" could make points similar to the following:
   • his flaw is deep; witch's remark is sufficient to bring out overriding ambition in him
   • once awakened, ambition directs all his actions; destroys his conscience and reason
   • before he was taken over by desire to be king, he was known for loyalty and courage
   • ambition leads him to take what is not rightfully his—the throne
   • his actions bring disorder, suffering, and death
   • achieving his ambition leaves him unpopular, unsatisfied, unfulfilled, friendless, a widower, and, finally, dead
   Students who judge Macbeth's "tragic flaw" to be relatively unimportant could make points similar to the following:
   • tragic flaw is just the means by which fate manipulates him
   • errors in judgment are what make his flaw a tragic one

   DIF: C

13. ANS:
   Students should not be scored in terms of how they judge the importance of each cause but on how well their reasoning supports the judgments they make. *Answers will vary.*
   Students who give significant importance to Macbeth's "errors in judgment" could make points similar to the following:
   • he rushes into action
   • thinks he is unstoppable
   • fails to consider he'll be likely suspect
   • fails to realize Malcolm will find support
   • kills people with little or no cause
   • fails to consider effects of conscience, which cause him to behave insanely
   • instead of heeding conscience, he makes matters worse
   • angers and alienates those who might have kept faith in him

   DIF: C
Students who judge Macbeth's "errors in judgment" to be relatively unimportant could make points similar to the following:

- his immoral acts, not his mistakes, bring him down
- it's not an "error in judgment" to be a murderer and usurper

DIF: C

14. ANS:
Students should not be scored in terms of how they judge the importance of each cause but on how well their reasoning supports the judgments they make. *Answers will vary.*

Students who give significant importance to "fate" could make points similar to the following:

- witches cast a spell
- prophecies are not suggestions but reflect what will be
- Macbeth's trapped by sorcery and powers of darkness
- witches arrange sorcery to trap him more completely
- even if first murder is result of free will, all that follows is a chain of events that are consequences of (fated by) that murder

Students who judge "fate" to be relatively unimportant could make points similar to the following:

- witches choose him because of his flawed character
- he does little to resist helping the prophecy along
- he may be destined to be king, but he himself chooses the means to throne
- it's his own actions that bring his downfall
- he chooses to ignore Banquo's warning about the witches and yields to temptation

DIF: C

ESSAY

15. ANS:
*Answers will vary.* Possible answers:

Blind ambition leads to ruin.

- Macbeth is a beloved, trusted man until he is consumed by ambition.
- Ambition robs him of every decent impulse.
- In his search for power and position, he sacrifices everything that had given his life meaning before—a loving relationship with his wife, loyalty to his king, respect from his peers.
- Once begun on his quest for power, he sinks lower and lower into depravity.
- By abandoning his morality to achieve power and position, he guarantees disloyalty and rebellion.

Fate is determined by character.

- Macbeth brings on his own demise.
- It is flaws in his character that set the tragic chain of events into action.
- Not only is he ambitious, he is weak. That weakness makes him unable to resist temptation and his wife's prodding.
- His reaction to the witches' prophecy that he would be king is immediate and overwhelming.

The love of power corrupts.

- In his search for power and position, he sacrifices everything decent in his life—a loving relationship with his wife, loyalty to his king, respect from his peers.
- His craving for power overpowers his conscience and his reason.
- He allows himself to sink into complete immorality in his search to gain the throne and keep it.

Violence corrupts.

- At first, just contemplating murder fills Macbeth with fear and horror; planning it furthers his dread; committing it almost undoes him.
- The very next day, he kills two more men and seems not at all bothered.
- His murder of Banquo results in his seeing a ghost and behaving insanely.
• After Banquo's murder, violence has little if any horror for him. He orders the murder of an innocent woman and her children just because they are his enemy's family.

DIF: C