

Macbeth: Quick Notes Revision Quiz

Plot, characters, context, themes, quotations and an exam-style plan for William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can recall the plot, characters, themes and context of *Macbeth*.

✓ I know the plot ✓ I can link characters and themes ✓ I can use context

1 The plot

Number the events of *Macbeth* in order.

☐

A Lady Macbeth sleepwalks.

☐

B Macduff kills Macbeth.

☐

C Macduff's family is murdered.

☐

D The witches greet Macbeth as Thane of Cawdor and future king.

☐

E Banquo's ghost appears at the banquet.

☐

F Macbeth murders Duncan.

☐

G Banquo is murdered; Fleance escapes.

2 Characters

Match each character to a description.

1 Banquo

☐

A Duncan's son, crowned at the end

2 Macduff

☐

B Banquo's son, who escapes

3 Malcolm

☐

C the King of Scotland, murdered in Act 2

4 Duncan

☐

D Macbeth's friend; the witches say his children will be kings

5 Fleance

☐

E Thane of Fife, who kills Macbeth

3 Themes

For each theme, give one moment where it appears and the character most linked to it.

Theme	Where it appears	Linked character
Ambition		
Guilt		
The supernatural		

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4 Context and themes

	TRUE	FALSE
1 The play was first performed in the reign of James I.	☐	☐
2 Jacobean believed in the divine right of kings.	☐	☐
3 Macbeth kills Duncan in battle.	☐	☐
4 Lady Macbeth dies at the end of the play.	☐	☐

5 Quotations Explain what each quotation shows. Name the speaker or character where you can.

1 “Fair is foul, and foul is fair” [2 marks]

2 “Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand?” [2 marks]

6 Exam practice

How does Shakespeare present ambition in *Macbeth*? Plan three points with evidence.

Answer Key

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Question	Answers
1 The plot	Correct order: D, F, G, E, C, A, B The witches greet Macbeth as Thane of Cawdor and future king. → Macbeth murders Duncan. → Banquo is murdered; Fleance escapes. → Banquo's ghost appears at the banquet. → Macduff's family is murdered. → Lady Macbeth sleepwalks. → Macduff kills Macbeth.
2 Characters	1 D; 2 E; 3 A; 4 C; 5 B
3 Themes	Ambition – Where it appears: Macbeth decides to kill Duncan , Linked character: Macbeth / Lady Macbeth Guilt – Where it appears: the sleepwalking scene , Linked character: Lady Macbeth The supernatural – Where it appears: the witches' prophecies; the dagger , Linked character: the Witches
4 Context and themes	1 True ; 2 True ; 3 False – he kills Duncan in his sleep, as a guest in Macbeth's castle; 4 True
5 Quotations	1. the Witches – things are not what they seem; appearance versus reality. 2. Macbeth – overwhelming guilt after murdering Duncan.
6 Exam practice	Look for: • Macbeth's 'vaulting ambition' and the prophecy • Lady Macbeth's ambition and its collapse • Context: the divine right of kings, the Gunpowder Plot, James I

Teaching note: quotations are from Shakespeare's Macbeth, which is out of copyright.