**E2E: *Macbeth* Act 2**

Directions: Answer the following questions over Act 2 in complete sentences.

Scene 1

1a). Paraphrase the following lines: “Being unprepared,/Our will became the servant to defect,/Which else should free have wrought.”

1b). What makes these remarks ironic?

1c). How does this help build suspense?

2). What inferences can you make about Banquo throughout this scene? Provide evidence to support your answer.

3). How does Shakespeare use Macbeth’s dialogue to develop the theme of fate vs free will? Provide evidence to support your answer.

Scene 2

4). How does Shakespeare create tension throughout this scene? Provide evidence to support your answer.

5). Reread the following passage. What conflict arises that could develop into a major theme? How does Shakespeare use the exchange between Macbeth and his wife to develop this conflict?

LADY MACBETH: Consider it not so deeply.   
MACBETH: But wherefore could not I pronounce “Amen”?/I had most need of blessing, and “Amen”/Stuck in my throat. LADY MACBETH: These deeds must not be thought/ After these ways. So, it will make us mad.   
MACBETH: Methought I heard a voice cry, “Sleep no more!/ Macbeth does murder sleep”—the innocent sleep,/ Sleep that knits up the raveled sleave of care,/ The death of each day’s life, sore labor’s bath,/Balm of hurt minds, great nature’s second course/Chief nourisher in life’s feast.

6). How does the symbol of sleep develop the theme of guilt? Then, reread after the stage direction “[she exits with the daggers. Knock within.]” the dialogue between Macbeth and his wife. What details shape and refine guilt?

Scene 3

7). This question focuses on the Porter’s opening lines.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Identify the ironic statement the porter makes |  |
| How does Shakespeare use the Porter as comic relief? |  |
| What is different about the Porter’s lines than the rest of the play? |  |
| What is Shakespeare’s purpose in doing this? |  |

8). Reread Lennox’s lines that start with “The night has been unruly...” how does Shakespeare use diction to establish a foreboding mood?

9). Identify the metaphor Macduff uses while speaking. Why is this metaphor effective?

10). Why are the following lines ironic? How does this create suspense? How do Macduff’s words ironically echo Lady Macbeth’s speech in Act 1, in which she calls on the spirits of evil to “unsex her”?  
  
LADY MACBETH: “What’s the business, /That such a hideous trumpet calls to parley/ The sleepers of the house? Speak, speak!  
MACDUFF: O gentle lady, /'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:/The repetition, in a woman’s ear,/Would murder as it fell.

11). What is Donalbain’s fear?

Scene 4

12). What is Macduff conveying in this clothing metaphor? “Well, may you see things well done there. Adieu, /Lest our old robes sit easier than our new.”

13). Write down the lines, word-for-word, that say who is now crowned King of Scotland.

14). Macduff says he will **not** go to Scone, but he will go home to Fife. Why do you think that is? Provide text evidence.

15). In 5-7 sentences, analyze the purpose and importance of guilt and ambition within Act 2.