Act 1

Scene 1
1. They are able to predict the future.
2. Stormy. The play will include storms and conflict.
3. It implies that nothing is as it appears to be.

Scene 2
1. He is a brave soldier and a noble man, a fearless warrior who is admired by all.
2. To execute the Thane of Cawdor and to give his title to Macbeth.

Scene 3
1. We learn that they are very spiteful and unethical creatures.
2. “So fair and foul a day I have not seen”. These words echo the words of the witches in the opening scene and this shows a link between Macbeth and them.
3. They are unworldly creatures. They appear to be dishevelled, old and hairy.
4. Thane of Glamis; Thane of Cawdor; King.
5. He will be lesser than Macbeth, yet greater; not as happy, yet happier; his offspring will become kings.
6. He regards them as evil and he does not trust them.
7. He warns him that evil forces often tell us truths in order to betray us and cause us harm.

Scene 4
1. One cannot judge a person’s character by their outward appearance. The previous thane of Cawdor, who was a traitor.
2. Metaphor. He is comparing Banquo to a plant that he has planted and will nurture and help it to grow.
3. Macbeth is very disappointed. He sees it as an obstacle that must be overcome and uses light imagery when asking the stars to hide his ambition from others.
4. Duncan praises Macbeth, comparing him to a banquet. Macbeth will make Duncan feel welcome at the banquet, but he will also kill him. Macbeth is a “peerless kinsman” as he is the only one who will kill the king.

Scene 5
1. They were very close. He trusted her and they shared their thoughts. They had an equal partnership.
2. She is excited, but fears that Macbeth is too honest to do anything dishonest / illegal to make it come true.
3. His kindness and righteousness. “It is too full o’the milk of human kindness / To catch the nearest way.”
4. She is encouraging Macbeth to hurry back to her so that she may help him to achieve the crown by influencing him. This is an extremely forceful soliloquy.
5. To unsex her – to remove her feminine qualities as these are regarded as weaknesses.
6. It is easy to ‘read’ his emotions.
7. Antithesis. Be the opposite of what you appear to be.
Scene 6.

1. They emphasise how pleasant Macbeth’s castle (Inverness) is, but this is where Duncan will be murdered.

Scene 7

1. **Reasons not to kill DUNCAN:** He is Duncan’s host. Duncan is his cousin. Duncan is his king.
   **Reasons not to KILL:** will be executed if caught, his soul will be damned, and violence begets violence.
2. His own ambition to be king, in order to fulfil the witches’ prophecy.
3. Macbeth decides to proceed no further because he has been honoured by Duncan and has gained a good reputation. He wants to enjoy the moment rather than to ruin it.
4. She feels as if his love for her is not genuine because he does not want to go through with the murder. She will regard his change of heart as a reflection of their love.
5. Confident, perhaps even arrogant as he has been incited by Lady Macbeth’s speech.

Act 2

Scene 1

1. Simile. Banquo feels that being called to Macbeth’s castle is like a heavy summons.
2. They are no longer comfortable in one another’s company. The conversation is strained and formal.
3.1 A dagger
3.2 Macduff is hallucinating either due to his overactive imagination or witchcraft. Perhaps even a combination.
3.3 He sees blood on the blade of the dagger.
4. He has decided to kill Duncan and must steel himself to follow through. It has a very fatalistic tone.

Scene 2

1. “Had he not resembled / my father as he slept, I had done’t.”
2. Short words. Quick exchanges. This illustrates the miscommunication between the two.
3. “Consider it not so deeply.” It is ironic because she is the one who is driven mad by guilt and commits suicide.
4. He is afraid to look on his deed. This reveals that Macbeth cannot face his actions and never takes responsibility.
5. Patronising. Condescending
6. He feels that he will never get rid of the blood; she says that ‘a little water clears us of this deed. He shows remorse, she shows none.
7. Macbeth feels that his sin is so large that instead of the sea cleaning his hand, his hand would make all the seas red. He feels doomed.
8. Macbeth feels guilty but not remorseful. He yearns for his lost innocence and security.

Scene 3

1. This is anti-climactic in order to relieve the tension. It is also a filler scene to provide time for a change in set and costume.
2. Chimneys were blown down, there were strange screams and prophecies of Judgement Day, fires broke out, earthquakes, owls shrieked the whole night. The chain of being has been upset because the king has been killed. Elizabethans believed that this violated the natural order.

3. It was a very “rough night” because he killed King Duncan. He is being very casual about committing murder.

4. Elizabethans believed that the King was God’s representative on earth, therefore God’s temple had been broken open when Duncan was murdered.

5. It is a callous reply and comes across as selfish and insincere – Duncan’s murder would surely have been a terrible thing anywhere.

6. Macbeth uses elaborate images whereas Macduff is direct and to the point.

7.1 Duncan’s guards

7.2 Macbeth

7.3 To hide his own guilt

8. Macbeth claims to love Duncan, but he has just killed him. His verbose account and glorified details of the murder also shows disrespect and insincerity.

9. To flee separately: Malcolm to England and Donalbain to Ireland.

10.1 Metaphor. “There’s daggers in men’s smiles.” Nobody can be trusted.

10.2 Metaphor. Duncan is not the final target – the deed is not yet finished.

Scene 4

1. It is dark during daytime; an owl killed a falcon; Duncan’s horses ate one another.

2. It is said that Malcolm and Donalbain ordered Duncan’s guards to kill him.

3. He doesn’t go to Macbeth’s coronation.

Act 3

Scene 1

1. That Macbeth killed Duncan

2. Alliteration. Repetition of s creates an ominous atmosphere due to the hissing sound – the audience is aware of Macbeth’s plans to have Banquo and Fleance murdered.

3. He wants to kill both Banquo and Fleance.

4.1 Banquo because he knows of the witches’ prophecy.

4.2 “barren scepter; “unlineal hand”; “no son of mine succeeding”

4.3 He has damned his own soul only to help Banquo’s sons become kings.

5.1 They are possibly enemies of Banquo. They could also have been discharged from the army and feel they were wronged – it will therefore be easier to manipulate them.

5.2 Kill both Banquo and Fleance.

6. Definite / conclusive / almost depressing

Scene 2

1. No. She feels that they are living in doubtful joy. She feels as if they have given up their peace of mind for their current position.

2.1 He envies Duncan.

2.2 Nothing can harm Duncan. He is at peace.

3. It is ironic, because he is planning to kill him.

4.1. Metaphor – his mind is troubled
Grade 11  Macbeth Scene Questions  Memorandum

4.2 Alliteration – the plosive sound emphasises the troubled minds of the Macb... as the doomed atmosphere
5. Soothing, mollifying – he does not want her to worry about his plans
OR
Condescending – he feels she should not interfere with his plans
6. The more evil that he does, the stronger that ill (bad deeds) becomes and the easier it is to commit ill deeds.
This is a correct assumption as repetition reinforces behaviour and actions.

Scene 3
1. To check up on the first two as he has become paranoid. Possibly also to outnumber the target 3 to 2, strengthening their chances of success.
2. In keeping with the witches’ prophecies, Banquo’s issue can still become king.
Macbeth ordered the murders to ensure this cannot happen.

Scene 4
1. Informal and amicable, he tells his guests to seat themselves. It creates the impression that Duncan was very formal and the perfect host.
2. Alliteration. The rhythm speeds up which creates tension. It enhances the idea of being confined, caged.
3. He is guilty. This reveals that he must be thinking that people are suspecting him of murdering Duncan. Paranoia leads him to always having to claim his innocence.
4. They are full of blood and guts as he was stabbed 20 times.
5. She explains that he is prone to fits and has had them from a young age.
6. Addressing the guests her tone will be polite or even imploring as she does not want to rouse their suspicion.
She addresses Macbeth in a disdainful tone, trying to humiliate him and get him to stop his strange behaviour.
7.1 Macbeth has a spy in each home.
7.2 He wants to know what is happening and will use any means to find out.
7.3 Metaphor. He has committed so much evil, he can’t get out of it. He has crossed the point of no return.
7.4 He believes that with practice and time he will get better at murder / evil deeds. It will bother him less and he will execute these evil deeds better. He will carry on killing in order to cover up his evil deeds.

Scene 5
1.1 They have dealt with Macbeth without her consent.
1.2 Despite using the witches’ prophecies to spur him to become king, Macbeth does not honour / serve the witches.
2. She will give him false equivocations to make him believe he is invincible – false security. These equivocations will foretell his death.

Scene 6
1. Sarcasm
2. Macbeth is not well thought of in Scotland.
3. They are in England, gathering forces to march against Scotland.
Act 4

Scene 1
1. “Something wicked” – he has lost his humanity (something instead of someone) and he is evil, like them.
2. He demands answers from them, even if the witches have the ability to upset all of nature.
3. He is being interrupted by the 1st witch, warning him not to speak to the apparition.
4. 1. A head armed with a helmet – the apparition warns Macbeth against Macduff. This apparition represents the rebellion lead by Macduff and also foreshadows Macbeth's fate.
   2. A bloody child – the apparition tells Macbeth that no man born of woman can kill him. This apparition represents Macduff's birth by caesarean section.
   3. A crowned child with a tree in his hand – the apparition says that Macbeth will be safe until Birnam wood comes to Dunsinane. This apparition represents Malcolm who will ask his soldiers to hide their numbers with boughs from Birnam wood.
5. He regards the revelations as good omens as he believes that all men are born of women and a forest cannot move. Therefore he feels safe.
6. They warn him not to ask for more information / revelations.
7. They look like Banquo and he realizes that Banquo's issue will become kings which is what he is trying to prevent.
8. He has trusted in them and it has ruined his life; he damn himself.
9. He is angry that he cannot kill him and plans to take revenge on Macduff's family.
10. He has changed from being indecisive and feeling sorry for himself regarding the murder of Duncan to taking charge and demanding information from the witches. “I will be satisfied!”; “From this moment / The very firstlings of my heart shall be / The firstlings of my hand.”

Scene 2
1.1 She is annoyed that he has left her and the children alone in Scotland.
1.2 Yes. He has left her with their children, making them vulnerable. OR No. He has gone to fight for his country and she should support his bravery.
2. The main theme of the play is good vs evil.

Scene 3.
1.1 He says he is lustful and greedy; he does not relish any virtues.
1.2 Macduff at first says that the lust and greed can be accommodated as these vices are tolerable and outweigh Malcolm’s virtues. However, after Malcolm says that he has no virtues Macduff declares him unfit to live.
1.3. When Macduff agrees that Malcolm is too wicked to be king.
2. No, he is pretending to test MacDuff’s loyalty.
3. The help of Old Siward and ten thousand men
4. When asked about Macduff’s family, he first says that they are at peace, he doesn’t say they are dead.
5.1 Metaphor = they must cure their grief by taking revenge on Macbeth.
5.2 Metaphor = Macduff compares Macbeth’s killing of his family to a hen and her chicks being killed by a predatory bird with one try.
5.3 Metaphor = Malcolm compares Macduff’s anger to a whetstone and his sword to revenge – his anger will sharpen his sword. Thus he urges Macduff to use his grief to fuel his anger which will act as motivation for revenge to kill Macbeth.

Act 5

Scene 1
1. People might not believe her and this might put her life in danger.
2. Whereas she wanted darkness to cover all her evil thoughts and deeds, she, now fears the dark. The dark now symbolises evil for her.
3. She is retelling the story of the killing of Duncan in a very rambling way.
   - “One. Two.” = signal to murder Duncan.
   - “Fie, my lord, … power to accompl?” = having to persuade Macbeth to kill Duncan.
   - “Yet who would … blood in him?” = after she returned the daggers and put blood on the grooms.
   - “The Thane of Fife…” = suspects Macbeth of killing Macduff’s family.
   - “No more of …with this starting.” = placating Macbeth after seeing the ghost of Banquo during the coronation feast.
   - “Here’s the smell … Oh!” = links to Macbeth’s lament after killing Duncan in II ii 60-63.”
   - “To bed, … to bed.” = After the murder of Duncan, when Macduff was knocking at the castle gate to wake up Duncan.
4. Metaphor – Murder (unnatural deeds) will cause psychological problems (unnatural troubles).
   - Metaphor – our guilty secrets (infected minds) will manifest in our dreams.
   - Personification – “deaf pillows” refer to our dreams.

Scene 2
1. The Scottish nobles who are waiting to fight against Macbeth.
2. Macbeth is readying for war and fortifying Dunsinane
3. He is not fit to wear Duncan’s robes / he has ‘stolen’ these. “Dwarfish” also implies that Macbeth is lesser than Duncan.
4. Metaphor. Malcolm is seen as a doctor that will cure Scotland. The soldiers will add their blood to purify Scotland and aid Malcolm (“sovereign flower”). They will give as much of themselves as needed to re-establish good and get rid of evil. Macbeth is compared to weeds that will be drowned by the blood of the soldiers.

Scene 3
1. Desperate
2. He asks for his armour, but he is clinging to the witches’ prophecies.
3. He is depressed: he realises that he is hated and all on his own.
4. He is asking the doctor to erase the memory of what Lady Macbeth has done from her mind.

Scene 4
1. He tells them to cut down a branch from a tree in Birnam wood and carry it in front of them in order to hide their numbers.
2. That it has come true in an unexpected way.
3. He is not afraid to fight and go to war for a just cause. He shows wisdom by reminding Malcolm that the outcome of the battle is not sure – it needs to be fought first.

Scene 5
1. He is confident that his castle is strong enough to stand against anything.
2. Synecdoche. Men will fight, not just beards, but it makes this sound very manly.
3. His senses have been dulled.
4. He means that she has died at an inconvenient time OR that she would have to die anyway. He seems unaffected by his wife’s death. This could be due to his dulled senses or that there simply is no time to grieve during a battle.
5.1 He is disheartened and feels that life is not worth living for and has no purpose.
5.2 Hopelessness, dejection
6. Anger, disbelief, and fear.
7. He decides to fight in spite of the witches’ prophecies coming true.
   “At least we’ll die with harness on our back.”

Scene 6
1. It enhances the tension of the play. The short scene does not give the audience time to get comfortable.

Scene 7
1. Metaphor. Macbeth feels that he is tied up and has nowhere to go. Note the use of the word “stake” as witches were once burned at the stake!
2. The witches’ prediction that no man born of woman can harm Macbeth.
3. His easy kill of a rather inexperienced young Siward encourages him to believe he is invincible. Once again the gains false courage from the witches’ equivocation.
4. He wants to do this in order to avenge the death of his family.
5. Many of Macbeth’s soldiers have secretly been fighting on the other side (for Malcolm) and they have let them into the castle.

Scene 8
1. Macbeth sees no reason to commit suicide. He will fight to the end.
2. He has killed too many of Macduff’s family and is covered in guilt.
3. Macduff was born by caesarean section.
4. They have tricked him into a false sense of security.
5. Macbeth can surrender and be displayed in a freak show to show people what a tyrant looks like.

Scene 9
1. Siward’s son has been killed by Macbeth.
2. He wants to know whether his was running away or fighting bravely.
3. All the soldiers surrounding Malcolm and perhaps starting to bow down.
4. The thanes are to become earls, all exiles will be invited home to Scotland, Macbeth’s servants will be brought to justice, and everyone will be invited to Scone to see Malcolm crowned as King of Scotland.
   Malcolm makes a promise of restoration and order.