

Macbeth Act 5- Important Questions

Act 5 – Important Long Answer Questions

Lady Macbeth – Guilt & Breakdown (Act 5, Scene 1)

- How does Shakespeare present the theme of guilt through Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking scene?
- Show how Act 5, Scene 1 marks a complete reversal of Lady Macbeth's character.
- What is the dramatic significance of the doctor and gentlewoman in this scene?
- Explain the importance of the line: *"Out, damned spot!"*

Macbeth's Mental State (Act 5, Scene 3 & 5)

- How does Macbeth react to the news of Lady Macbeth's death?
- Explain the meaning and significance of the "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow" speech.
- How does Act 5 show the emotional emptiness caused by unchecked ambition?
- Show how Macbeth becomes both heroic and tragic in Act 5.

Prophecies & Fate (Act 5, Scene 4–8)

- How is the prophecy about Birnam Wood fulfilled?
- Show how Macbeth misinterprets the witches' prophecies.
- Explain the dramatic significance of Macduff's revelation: *"untimely ripped."*
- How does Act 5 prove that the witches deceive Macbeth through half-truths?

Kingship & Leadership

- Compare Malcolm and Macbeth as rulers using Act 5.
- How does Malcolm prove himself a worthy king at the end of the play?
- Show how tyranny leads to isolation in Macbeth.

Final Battle & Tragic End

- Describe the final confrontation between Macbeth and Macduff.
- Why does Macbeth refuse to surrender?
- How does Shakespeare create suspense in Act 5, Scene 7 and 8?
- Do you consider Macbeth a tragic hero at the end? Give reasons.

Short Answer / Extract-Based Questions

- What is the significance of the candle in the sleepwalking scene?
- Why does Macbeth call life a "walking shadow"?
- What does Macbeth mean by "I bear a charmed life"?

- Why does Siward react calmly to his son's death?
- What message does Shakespeare give through the ending of the play?