

FREE PRINTABLE QUIZ

Macbeth

Act 1, Scene 7 — “If it were done”

William Shakespeare · 20 questions with a full answer key and explanations

What's inside

- **20 multiple-choice questions**, including passage analysis with the original text printed above it — the way your English class asks it.
- **Answer key** on its own page so you can take the quiz first.
- **Explanations** for every question, so a wrong answer teaches you something.
- Written from LumLysia's study edition of the book — not scraped summaries.

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The quiz

Macbeth — Act 1 · Scene 7. Answers begin on the answer key page.

PLOT & EVENT

1. What is the immediate cause of Macbeth's initial decision to 'proceed no further in this business'?

- A. A sudden visit from Banquo, reminding him of loyalty.
- B. His reflection on Duncan's recent honors and the 'golden opinions' he has earned.
- C. A direct command from King Duncan to abandon the plan.
- D. A vision of a bloody dagger, warning him against the deed.

PLOT & EVENT

2. What is the direct consequence of Lady Macbeth's detailed plan for framing the chamberlains?

- A. Macbeth immediately abandons the murder plot.
- B. Macbeth becomes 'settled' and resolves to commit the 'terrible feat'.
- C. Duncan is warned of the impending danger.
- D. Banquo becomes suspicious of Macbeth's intentions.

CHARACTER

3. Which of the following best describes Macbeth's primary internal conflict during his opening soliloquy?

- A. His fear of being caught by Duncan's guards.
- B. His struggle between moral duty and vaulting ambition.
- C. His concern that Lady Macbeth will disapprove of his hesitation.
- D. His doubt about the witches' prophecies coming true.

CHARACTER

4. Lady Macbeth's most effective strategy in persuading Macbeth to proceed with the murder is to:

- A. Appeal to his sense of duty to the crown.
- B. Remind him of the wealth and power they will gain.
- C. Challenge his masculinity and question his love for her.
- D. Provide a detailed, foolproof escape plan.

MICRO-DETAIL

5. What specific musical instrument is mentioned playing as the servants enter at the beginning of the scene?

- A. Trumpets
- B. Drums
- C. Hautboys
- D. Flutes

MICRO-DETAIL

6. Macbeth compares his ambition to a specific action that 'o'erleaps itself'. What is it?

- A. A swimmer drowning in a flood.
- B. A horse vaulting too high.
- C. A bird flying too close to the sun.
- D. A climber falling from a cliff.

MICRO-DETAIL

7. Lady Macbeth shames Macbeth by comparing his hesitation to a 'poor cat' from an adage. What did this cat want but wouldn't get?

- A. A mouse but wouldn't chase it.
- B. Milk but wouldn't drink it.
- C. A fish but wouldn't get its paws wet.
- D. A warm bed but wouldn't lie in it.

MICRO-DETAIL

8. Lady Macbeth plans to make Duncan's chamberlains' 'memory, the warder of the brain,' turn into what?

- A. A stone
- B. A fume
- C. A dream
- D. A whisper

MICRO-DETAIL

9. What does Lady Macbeth suggest they use to mark the two sleeping chamberlains to implicate them in the murder?

- A. Mud
- B. Ink
- C. Blood
- D. Wine

ANALYTICAL

10. Macbeth's concluding lines, 'False face must hide what the false heart doth know,' primarily highlight which thematic concept?

- A. The inevitability of fate.
- B. The corrupting influence of power.
- C. The deceptive nature of appearances.
- D. The importance of loyalty to the king.

ANALYTICAL

11. Lady Macbeth's argument that Macbeth would 'Be so much more the man' if he committed the deed primarily reflects the play's exploration of:

- A. The role of divine intervention in human affairs.
- B. The destructive power of unchecked ambition.
- C. The societal pressures and expectations of gender roles.
- D. The conflict between free will and destiny.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

MACBETH. If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well It were done quickly. If th' assassination Could trammel up the consequence, and catch With his surcease success; that but this blow Might be the be-all and the end-all—here, But here, upon this bank and shoal of time, We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases We still have judgement here; that we but teach Bloody instructions, which being taught, return To plague th' inventor. This even-handed justice Commends th' ingredience of our poison'd chalice To our own lips. He's here in double trust: First, as I am his kinsman and his subject, Strong both against the deed; then, as his host, Who should against his murderer shut the door, Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been So clear in his great office, that his virtues Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against The deep damnation of his taking-off; And pity, like a naked new-born babe, Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubin, hors'd Upon the sightless couriers of the air, Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye, That tears shall drown the wind.—I have no spur To prick the sides of my intent, but only Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself And falls on th' other—

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

12. The phrase 'bank and shoal of time' primarily functions as a metaphor to convey:

- A. The vastness of eternity.
- B. The precarious and temporary nature of mortal life.
- C. The financial risks associated with regicide.
- D. The historical significance of the moment.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

13. In the lines 'This even-handed justice Commends th' ingredience of our poison'd chalice To our own lips,' the literary device most prominently used is:

- A. Hyperbole
- B. Personification
- C. Alliteration
- D. Understatement

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

14. The extended simile comparing 'pity' to 'a naked new-born babe, Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubin, hors'd Upon the sightless couriers of the air' primarily serves to:

- A. Emphasize the innocence of Duncan.
- B. Illustrate the overwhelming moral outcry against the murder.
- C. Suggest Macbeth's desire for children.
- D. Highlight the supernatural forces at play.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

LADY MACBETH. Was the hope drunk Wherein you dress'd yourself? Hath it slept since? And wakes it now, to look so green and pale At what it did so freely? From this time Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard To be the same in thine own act and valour As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life, And live a coward in thine own esteem, Letting "I dare not" wait upon "I would," Like the poor cat i' th' adage?

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

15. Lady Macbeth's repeated use of rhetorical questions in this passage primarily functions to:

- A. Seek genuine information from Macbeth.
- B. Express her own confusion and doubt.
- C. Undermine Macbeth's confidence and challenge his resolve.
- D. Invite Macbeth to elaborate on his fears.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

16. The phrase 'look so green and pale' when referring to 'hope' employs which literary device?

- A. Metonymy
- B. Synecdoche
- C. Personification
- D. Oxymoron

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

17. The simile 'Like the poor cat i' th' adage' serves to:

- A. Provide a moment of comic relief.
- B. Illustrate Lady Macbeth's affection for animals.
- C. Diminish Macbeth's stature by comparing him to a timid creature.
- D. Suggest a hidden meaning or prophecy.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

LADY MACBETH. We fail? But screw your courage to the sticking-place, And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep (Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey Soundly invite him), his two chamberlains Will I with wine and wassail so convince That memory, the warder of the brain, Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep Their drenched natures lie as in a death, What cannot you and I perform upon Th' unguarded Duncan? what not put upon His spongy officers; who shall bear the guilt Of our great quell?

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

18. The phrase 'screw your courage to the sticking-place' is an example of a metaphor that suggests:

- A. The need for careful planning and precision.
- B. The act of physically restraining oneself.
- C. The necessity of firm, unwavering resolve.
- D. The difficulty of overcoming fear.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

19. In the lines 'memory, the warder of the brain, Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason A limbeck only,' Lady Macbeth uses imagery related to:

- A. Warfare and battle.
- B. Alchemy and distillation.
- C. Nature and the elements.
- D. Architecture and construction.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

20. The tone of Lady Macbeth's speech in this passage can best be described as:

- A.** Hesitant and uncertain.
- B.** Calm and reassuring.
- C.** Ruthless and commanding.
- D.** Desperate and pleading.

Answer key

Check your answers here, then read the explanations on the next page.

1. B	2. B	3. B	4. C	5. C
6. B	7. C	8. B	9. C	10. C
11. C	12. B	13. B	14. B	15. C
16. C	17. C	18. C	19. B	20. C

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Answers explained

Why the right answer is right — and what the question is really testing.

1. B. His reflection on Duncan's recent honors and the 'golden opinions' he has earned.

Macbeth explicitly states that Duncan has honored him and he has 'bought Golden opinions from all sorts of people,' which he wishes to enjoy rather than cast aside.

2. B. Macbeth becomes 'settled' and resolves to commit the 'terrible feat'.

Lady Macbeth's clear, ruthless plan, combined with her psychological pressure, finally pushes Macbeth past his hesitation, leading him to declare, 'I am settled, and bend up Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.'

3. B. His struggle between moral duty and vaulting ambition.

Macbeth's soliloquy reveals a deep internal battle between his conscience, which recognizes his duties as kinsman, subject, and host, and his overwhelming 'vaulting ambition' that drives him towards regicide.

4. C. Challenge his masculinity and question his love for her.

Lady Macbeth's powerful manipulation hinges on questioning Macbeth's courage and love, effectively shaming him into action by implying he is less than a man if he backs down.

5. C. Hautboys

The stage directions specify 'Hautboys and torches' as the scene opens, indicating a formal, albeit unsettling, atmosphere.

6. B. A horse vaulting too high.

Macbeth describes his ambition as 'Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself And falls on th' other—', a vivid image of a horse jumping beyond its target.

7. C. A fish but wouldn't get its paws wet.

Lady Macbeth uses the proverb of the 'poor cat i' th' adage' who 'would have fish, but durst not wet her feet' to accuse Macbeth of cowardice.

8. B. A fume

Lady Macbeth intends to get the guards so drunk that their memory will become 'a fume,' meaning a vapor or something insubstantial, thus clouding their minds.

9. C. Blood

Lady Macbeth's plan involves smearing 'blood' on the sleeping guards to make them appear guilty of the regicide.

10. C. The deceptive nature of appearances.

You've hit the nail on the head! These lines perfectly encapsulate the theme of appearance versus reality, a central motif in the play, where characters must present a facade to conceal their true, sinister intentions.

11. C. The societal pressures and expectations of gender roles.

Lady Macbeth's manipulation heavily relies on challenging Macbeth's masculinity, highlighting how societal expectations of 'manhood' can be twisted to drive individuals to extreme actions.

12. B. The precarious and temporary nature of mortal life.

'Bank and shoal of time' vividly illustrates the fleeting and shallow existence of human life compared to the eternal consequences of his actions, suggesting a willingness to risk the afterlife for immediate gain.

13. B. Personification

'Justice' is given the human quality of 'commending' or serving the poisoned cup, making the abstract concept an active agent in Macbeth's potential downfall.

14. B. Illustrate the overwhelming moral outcry against the murder.

This powerful imagery conveys the idea that the sheer injustice of Duncan's murder will provoke a universal, almost cosmic, outpouring of grief and condemnation, making it impossible to conceal.

15. C. Undermine Macbeth's confidence and challenge his resolve.

The rhetorical questions are not for answers but are sharp, accusatory tools designed to shame Macbeth and force him to confront his perceived cowardice.

16. C. Personification

Lady Macbeth personifies 'hope' by giving it human characteristics of being 'drunk,' 'sleeping,' and then 'waking' to look 'green and pale,' as if suffering from a hangover or fear.

17. C. Diminish Macbeth's stature by comparing him to a timid creature.

By comparing Macbeth to a proverbially timid cat, Lady Macbeth aims to belittle him and highlight his perceived lack of courage, effectively shaming him into action.

18. C. The necessity of firm, unwavering resolve.

This vivid metaphor implies that courage must be fixed and tightened, like a screw, to a point of absolute steadfastness, allowing no room for wavering or doubt.

19. B. Alchemy and distillation.

'Fume' and 'limbeck' (an alembic, a distillation apparatus) are terms associated with alchemy, suggesting the guards' minds will be so clouded by drink that their reason will be reduced to a mere vessel for intoxicating vapors.

20. C. Ruthless and commanding.

Lady Macbeth's tone is assertive, unyielding, and utterly devoid of moral qualm, as she systematically lays out the plan and dismisses Macbeth's fears with cold logic and determination.

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