

William Shakespeare
Macbeth
Act 1 Scene 6

Worksheet by:
Keith Tankard
Knowledge4Africa.com

1. Duncan and Banquo comment on the harmony of nature outside Macbeth's castle. Explain the signs of this harmony in terms of:
 - the castle's position. (2)
 - the atmosphere surrounding the castle. (2)
 - the fact that the "temple-haunting martlet" has made its nest there. (4)

2. "The love that follows us sometime is our trouble
Which still we thank as love."
 - What does Duncan mean by this? (4)

3. If you were a member of the audience, what advice would you want to shout to Duncan with regards to Lady Macbeth's honey-dripping speech of welcome? Explain why. (4)

4. Does Duncan have any suspicion of Lady Macbeth's plans to murder him? Explain how you reach your conclusion. (4)

5. What is the purpose behind the description of such absolute tranquillity at Macbeth's castle? (4)

6. The notes in Rumboll's version of Macbeth explain that Banquo's description of the "temple-haunting martlet" is "superb irony".
 - Do you agree with Rumboll? Explain carefully. (10)

7. Comment on the character of Lady Macbeth as she appears in this short scene. (4)

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