

Practice Multiple-Choice Questions

PRACTICE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS 1 – 10

Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

MACBETH: To be thus is nothing;
But to be safely thus.—Our fears in Banquo
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature
Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'tis much he dares;
5 And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour
To act in safety. There is none but he
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,
My Genius is rebuked; as, it is said,
10 Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters
When first they put the name of king upon me,
And bade them speak to him: then prophet-like
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,
15 And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;
20 Put rancours in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man,
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!
Rather than so, come fate into the list.
25 And champion me to the utterance!

1. In the context of the passage, the word “filed” (line 18) most likely means
 - A. sharpened.
 - B. sorted.
 - C. submitted.
 - D. troubled.
 - E. controlled.
2. The word “list” (line 24) is a reference to
 - A. Medieval jousting tournaments.
 - B. the book of judgement.
 - C. a census of Scottish subjects.
 - D. the act of counting suspects.
 - E. the record of the Scottish royal family.

3. The pronoun “them” (lines 19, 21, 23) refers to
 - A. Banquo’s descendents.
 - B. Banquo and Fleance.
 - C. Macbeth’s children.
 - D. the Weird Sisters.
 - E. Malcolm and Donalbain.

4. “There is none but he whose being I do fear” (lines 7 – 8) is an example of
 - A. pathetic fallacy.
 - B. dramatic irony.
 - C. tragic flaw.
 - D. hyperbole.
 - E. understatement.

5. The mention of Mark Antony and Caesar (line 10) is an example of an
 - A. understatement.
 - B. illusion.
 - C. allusion.
 - D. epitaph.
 - E. enigma.

6. Which of the following is true of the first line of the soliloquy?
 - A. It is a heroic couplet.
 - B. It is a dependent clause.
 - C. It introduces an extended metaphor.
 - D. It is rhythmically shorter for emphasis.
 - E. It is syntactically altered for emphasis.

7. Macbeth states that the reasons he fears Banquo are Banquo’s
 - A. fierce loyalty and fiery temper.
 - B. courage and common sense.
 - C. ambition and ruthlessness.
 - D. lineage and social position.
 - E. curiosity and cunning.

8. In addition to fearing Banquo, Macbeth resents him because
 - A. Macbeth will not establish a dynasty.
 - B. Banquo “stole” Macbeth’s prophesy from the witches.
 - C. Banquo wouldn’t participate in Duncan’s assassination.
 - D. Macbeth suspects Banquo will assassinate him.
 - E. Banquo rebuked Macbeth.

9. In lines 4 – 7, Macbeth admits that Banquo
- A. has more courage than Macbeth.
 - B. is more like a king than Macbeth.
 - C. has more discretion than Macbeth.
 - D. is stronger than Macbeth.
 - E. has children while Macbeth does not.
10. Lines 16 and 17 are ironic because
- A. Banquo is not of the royal family.
 - B. this is what the witches said would happen.
 - C. Banquo suspects Macbeth of the assassination.
 - D. Fleance is too young to be king.
 - E. this is what Macbeth has done to Duncan.