

**Answer these questions:**

Q1. What were the three prophecies made to Macbeth and Banquo, when they were returning after defeating the Thane of Cawdor?

Ans: The three prophecies (prediction) made to Banquo were: -

- i. "All hail Banquo, who are lesser than Macbeth but greater."
- ii. "You are not as happy as Macbeth but you will be happier."
- iii. "You will not become the king, but your descendants will become the king of Scotland."

The three prophecies made to Macbeth were: -

- i. "All hail Macbeth, Lord of Glamis!"
- ii. "All hail Macbeth, Lord of Cawdor!"
- iii. "All hail Macbeth, who will be the King of Scotland!"

Q2. What was the plan made out to kill Duncan?

Ans: The plan was: Macbeth and Lady Macbeth would drug the guard's wine and they would then fall asleep. Macbeth would kill the King. He would smear the King's blood on the guard and then steal away (to leave secretly) to his own room. In the morning, they would give an alarm, seeing the drunken, blood-smearred guards, all the people would accuse them of murder.

Q3. Why was Lady Macbeth unable to kill King Duncan?

Ans: Lady Macbeth was unable to kill King Duncan because he reminded her of her own father.

Q4. Why did Malcolm and Donalbain leave?

Ans: Malcolm fled to England and Donalbain to Ireland. They did so to protect themselves from being Macbeth's next target.

Q5. Why was Macbeth uncomfortable with Banquo being alive?

Ans: Macbeth was uncomfortable with Banquo being alive because:

- i. he was loyal to Duncan.
- ii. he had a young and splendid son.
- iii. he was a witness to the witches' prophecies.
- iv. And moreover, Macbeth was also jealous of Banquo as the witches had foretold that many of Banquo's successors would be kings.

Q6. Why did Macbeth have Banquo killed?

Ans: The first two prophecies of the witches had come true, but he feared that the throne would pass on to the descendants of Banquo. So, Macbeth got Banquo killed.

Q7. How was Banquo murdered?

Ans: Macbeth invited Banquo to a banquet (feast-evening meal) and hired some murderers to kill Banquo and his son on their way to the banquet. The murderers attacked them but could managed to kill only Banquo while his son, Fleance escaped.

Q8. What were the two prophecies of the witches, which said that Macbeth would never be killed?

Ans: The prophecies were:

- i. No man born of woman can ever harm him.
- ii. Macbeth shall never be conquered till the Great Birnam Wood would come to Dunsinane Hill.

Q9. What did Macbeth mean by saying "I've already killed too many of your family?"

Ans: Out of remorse, (deep regret) Macbeth told Macduff that he felt very guilty in killing his wife, his children and his servants and that he didn't want to kill him.

Q10. What did Macbeth mean by saying "If you are lying I will hang you on the nearest tree?"

Ans: Macbeth knew for certain that the witches couldn't be wrong. When the servant told Macbeth that the Great Birnam Wood was moving, he was shocked and he told the servant that if what he said was wrong he would be hanged to death.

Q11. How did Lady Macbeth die?

Ans: The murder of King Duncan lay heavy on her conscience. (a person's moral sense of right and wrong) Her guilt drew her to insanity. She was always disturbed which slowly led her to her death.

**Meanings:**

1. smear - spread; false accusations
2. unnerved - lose courage or confidence
3. composure - calmness of mind
4. equivocate - to speak in a way that is intentionally not clear and confusing to other people, especially to hide the truth.
5. fury - extreme anger
6. astray - into error/sin
7. unquenchable - unsatisfied
8. taunt - insult
9. tyrant - a cruel and oppressive ruler
10. full of the milk of human kindness - compassion/sympathy