Macbeth Practice Questions and Syllabus Dot Points

Before you read the practice questions, review the syllabus dot points for this task. You could be asked a question about ANY of these dot points.

It is your challenge before the assessment to make sure you understand these concepts. I have annotated the dot points for you in italics. Aim to write 2-3 sentences to answer each of the questions in italics.

(1) Investigate and reflect on different ways of reading literary texts, including:

- the degree to which individual viewpoints, experiences and contexts shape readings of texts. A reading of
 a text refers to a meaning that can be made of a text. In responding to a literary text, readers might
 consider the context of the writer, the society and culture in which the text was produced, their own
 experience of reading and their own way of thinking about the world.
 - (This dot point is asking you to understand readings. Do you understand that a reading of the text can be shaped by the context of production and/or reception? Have you understood the context of the play? Have you considered how your own experience and context shapes both your reading of the play, and your response to it?)
- how the production and reception of texts is informed by an understanding of the conventions usually associated with a genre.
 - (This dot point is asking if you understand the conventions of the genre. What are the genres?
 Remember there is the genre of form and structure (drama conventions) and genre of subject matter (Tragedy)
- how there are different reading practices or strategies, such as reading with an emphasis on various representations; or reading with a focus on different contexts; or reading intertextually, that is, reading that focuses on connections between texts. Different reading strategies produce different readings.
 - (This dot point is all about readings and how well you can apply different reading strategies. It gives you the examples here of reading with a focus on finding the links between Macbeth and other texts and reading with a focus on representations. You might consider how masculinity and femininity are represented in the text and for what effect)

(1) Analyse distinctive features in literary texts, including:

- how text structures, language features such as figurative language, and stylistic elements, particularly dramatic conventions shape meaning and create particular effects.
 - (This is asking if you understand the how the language conventions, dramatic conventions and text structures shape meaning and create a particular effect. Perhaps the use of soliloquy (a dramatic convention) has a particular effect)
- the use of figurative language, including simile, metaphor, symbolism, metonymy and synecdoche to represent concepts; and rhetorical devices to shape texts, including irony, hyperbole and exclamation
 - (Do you understand the language? Do you understand what metonymy and synecdoche are and can you identify how they are used in the play? What is the effect of these language choices?)
- the use of sound and visual devices in literary texts to create particular effects, including alliteration, assonance, prosody, rhyme, imagery, typography, music, set design, properties and lighting.
 - (This dot point is asking you to consider how the sound devices such as alliteration, assonance, prosody (this is the study of the verse. For example, are there instances when the play is performed in verse? Do the witches speak in rhyme for a reason?) and imagery. This dot point also asks you to understand how sound devices (like the thunder which always heralds the witches) and lighting (consider the disruption of the natural world and the descent of Scotland into darkness) constructs meaning.

	So,	with	that	in	mind,	here	are	some	practice	questions
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- 1. Present a reading of the play which focuses on how the conventions of the Tragedy genre operate to shape meaning.
- 2. Present a reading of the play which focuses on how certain representation(s) shape meaning.
- 3. Discuss how the construction of the witches through BOTH dramatic and language conventions shapes meaning. Your challenge is to use the word prosody in your response.
- 4. Through a close textual analysis and consideration of the context of production, discuss how a theme is constructed in the play.