Scene 1:

* How does Banquo reveal his suspicion of Macbeth in his speech at the start of the scene?
* How does Banquo reveal his ambition in this speech?
* How has Macbeth’s attitude toward committing murder changed since Duncan’s murder (lines 54-79)?
* Macbeth disposed of Duncan himself. For Banquo’s murder, he hires others to do it for him. What does this reveal about the character? How is he represented?
* Macbeth believes that by murdering Banquo and Fleance, he can alter fate. Do you agree with this statement?

Scene 2:

* Refer to the following lines:  
  Lady Macbeth: Nought’s had, all spent’s  
  Where our desire is got without content  
  ‘Tis safer to be that which we destroy  
  Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy (6-9)  
  Macbeth: We have scorched the snake, not killed it (15)  
  Lady Macbeth: You must leave this (41)  
  Macbeth: Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck  
  Till thou applaud the deed (52-53)
* What evidence is there in this scene that the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is beginning to change?
* How does Shakespeare use oxymorons (10, 24) in this scene to convey the emotions of the characters?
* During this scene Shakespeare refers to a number of animals.
* What are these animals?
* What are these animals associated with Jacobean/Elizabethan culture?
* What is the effect of their inclusion?

Scene 3:

* How is light and dark used in this scene? What is the effect?

Scene 4:

* When Macbeth learns about Banquo’s murder but Fleance’s escape he claims he’s “cabined, cribbed, confined” (28). How does Shakespeare use figurative language to describe Macbeth’s psyche with this line?
* It could be argued that this scene marks the beginning of Macbeth’s downfall. list the various ‘defeats’ suffered by Macbeth in this scene.
* Explain the meaning of the following lines:  
  Macbeth: …I am in blood  
  Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more,  
  Returning were as tedious as go over (162-164).
* Examine Macbeth’s repeated references to ‘blood’ in this scene. What do they reveal about his character?

Scene 5:

* What does Hecate’s speech suggest about the power of fate in controlling the actions of men?