Scene 1:

* How does Shakespeare use language at the start of the scene to create atmosphere?
* How does the way the witches refer to Macbeth as he approaches differ from how they referred to him in Act 1?  
  Upon sensing his imminent arrival, Macbeth is regarded as “something wicked” by the three witches, in stark contrast to the rejoice displayed in their first interaction.
* In this scene the witches make three more prophecies. What are they?
* How does Macbeth react to each of the prophecies?
* How is he represented at this stage of the play?
* How is the character Macbeth represented in this scene? Consider his paranoia over losing power and consequential willingness to murder anyone who threatens him, no matter the size of the threat and the fact that he is now acting alone, without consultation with his wife.

Scene 2:

* Examine Lady Macduff’s speech in lines 8-16. Lady Macduff compares herself and her children to birds. What is the purpose of this metaphor and use of symbolism?
* How is this metaphor further developed in the scene?
* At the end of the scene, the murderers kill Lady Macduff’s son and he tells her to “Run away, I pray you!” Explain the play on words here with the word ‘pray’. How does this link to the previous metaphor?

Scene 3:

* Consider the way in which legitimate/illegitimate rule is represented in this scene. List words and phrases associated with each.
* How is the theme loyalty explored in this scene?
* After Lady Macduff and her son’s murders are revealed to the characters, Malcolm says to Macduff that he must “Dispute it like a man” (252).  
  What does Malcolm mean by this?  
  What is Macduff’s reaction to this statement? What does his response reveal about the character’s belief in what makes a good man?
* How is the metaphor of birds continued in this scene? See line 250.