

The witches' knowledge of future events clearly indicates that they have supernatural powers, and they also clearly enjoy using those powers to cause chaos and confusion among mankind. But it is

important to realise that the witches never force anyone to do anything. Instead, they tell half-truths to trap people into giving into their own dark desires. The witches do not have the power to kill or murder anyone.

Yes. The witches can be blamed for their prophecies. Macbeth did not consult them for a reading of his future. They approached him and created greed and obsession in him. Unnecessary murders took place and Scotland was brought to its knees.

EXTRACT B Answers

1.2.1 The three witches

1.2.2 Lady Macbeth should have a very determined tone.

1.2.3 Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth. He has more reasons to as he was present when the witches predicted Macbeth's future.

Banquo claims to be an honourable and principled man but take a stand against Macbeth like Macduff does.

1.2.4 (c) Soliloquy

1.2.5 Macbeth and Lady Macbeth were about to enter as King and Queen. /

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth were just crowned as King and Queen.

1.2.6 Macbeth and Banquo are both ambitious.

Unlike Macbeth, Banquo resist putting selfish ambition above his honour for his country (Scotland).

1.2.7 'The bloody cousins' are Malcolm and Donalbain, the sons of King Duncan.

After the King was murdered they fled in fear of their lives. Macbeth blames them for murdering their father, the King.

1.2.8 These visions and hallucinations are figments of his guilty imagination. /

Macbeth has seen or heard strange things like the floating dagger/ the blood/ the voice that says he is murdering sleep and Banquo's ghost. Macbeth is not only at war with others, but with himself as well.

1.2.9 **Open-ended.**

Yes

The drama is still relevant today because there are still people like Macbeth. Macbeth did not wait for the predictions of the witches to come naturally. He became greedy when the first prediction came true. He became dishonest and killed innocent people to achieve what he wanted. Status made him disloyal to his counterparts and friends. He became an undeserving leader.

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,
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,
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
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.
And champion me to the utterance! Who's there?
Re-enter Attendant, with two Murderers
Act3 scene 1

Questions

1 "To be thus, is nothing; / But to be safely thus;" (lines 48-49)

1.1 What is Macbeth saying here?

1.2 Why is it unlikely that Macbeth will ever feel safe as king?

2. Why is "Banquo's royalty of nature" (line 50) a particular source of pain to Macbeth now?

3. "And, to that dauntless temper of his mind" (line 52)