ENG 105  Macbeth  Homework questions

Answer the following questions after reading Act I:
Answers should be two or three complete sentences.

1. Why does Macbeth call the day both “foul and fair”?

2. What does Duncan mean when he says of the Thane of Cawdor, “What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won”?

3. What special item do the witches put in the cauldron?

4. Why is Macbeth so convinced that all of the prophecies are true?

5. Describe two of the flaws Lady Macbeth sees in her husband.

6. Give one example of the theme of free will from the play.

7. What reasons does Macbeth give as to why it is wrong to kill Duncan?

Answer the following questions after reading Act II:
Answers should be two or three complete sentences.

1. Why does Macbeth pretend he has forgotten about the “Weird Sisters”?

2. Macbeth fears that the “very stones prate of my whereabouts.” What does he mean?

3. Why are Duncan’s guards unable to protect him?

4. Why does Lady Macbeth exclaim, “Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers!”?

5. Why does Macbeth talk about Neptune after the murders?

6. Why does Macbeth tell Macduff that he killed Duncan’s servants?

7. Why do Malcolm and Donalbain flee Scotland?
Act III Quote Identification:
Choose five of the ten quotes below and (a) identify the speaker, (b) identify to whom the speaker is speaking, and (c) explain the context (i.e., what is happening in the play).

1. O, proper stuff! This is the very painting of your fear. This is the air-drawn dagger which you said Led you to Duncan.

2. The time has been That when the brains were out, the man would die, With twenty mortal murder on their crowns And push us from our stools.

3. Thou hast it now – King, Cawdor, Glamis, all As the Weird Women promised, and I fear Thou played "st most fouly for ,,t.

4. I am in blood Stepped in so far that, should I wade no more Returning were as tedious as go o"er.

5. (To leave no rubs or botches in the work) Fleance, his son, that keeps him company, Whose absence is no less material to me Than is his father "s, must embrace the fate Of that dark hour.

6. To be thus is nothing, But to be safely thus. Our fears in Banquo Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature Reigns that which would be feared.

7. Thou art the best o th cutthroats, Yet he "s good that did the like for Fleance. If thou didst it, thou art the nonpareil.

8. We hear our bloody cousins are bestowed In England and in Ireland, not confessing Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers With strange invention.

9. Better be with the dead, Than on the torture of the mind to lie In restless ecstasy.

10. Then comes my fit again. I had else been perfect Whole as the marble, founded as the rock, As broad and general as the casing air. But now I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in To saucy doubts and fear. – But Banquo "s safe?
Complete the following after reading Act IV and V:
Answers should be two or three complete sentences. Quote identifications must include the speaker and the significance of the passage cited.

1. Name one of the three apparitions Macbeth sees and explain its symbolic significance.

2. Be bloody, bold, and resolute. Laugh to scorn The power of man, for none of woman born Shall harm Macbeth.

3. Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell. Though all things foul would wear the brows of grace, Yet grace must still look so.

4. How does Macduff convince Malcolm of his sincerity?

5. He has no children. All my pretty ones? Did you say “all”? Oh hell-kite! All? What, all my pretty chickens and their dam At one fell swoop?

6. What does the doctor say is the underlying cause of Lady Macbeth’s nocturnal behaviors?

7. Wisdom? To leave his wife, to leave his babes, His mansion and his titles in a place From whence himself does fly? He loves us not

8. Here ’s the smell of blood still. All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O O O!

9. What is Macduff’s starling revelation to Macbeth?

10. She should have died hereafter. There would have been time for such a word. Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. Creeps in this pretty pace from day to day To the last syllable of recorded time. And all our yesterdays have lighted fools The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!