

Year 11	Autumn Term
Subject English Literature	Topic Macbeth

	Knowledge	Answer
1	When was Macbeth written?	1606
2	Who was on the throne?	King James I
3	What is the Divine Right of Kings?	The idea that kings got their power from God
4	What does the term “Patriarchy” mean?	A society in which men are dominate
5	What were the expectations of women in the Jacobean Era?	Expected to follow social expectations, to obey all men and to be respectful and faithful
6	Why is the image of a ‘serpent’ evident in Macbeth?	The biblical reference highlights how Eve convinces Adam to eat forbidden fruit after being tempted by the serpent
7	What was the attitude to the supernatural?	Many believed in witchcraft so an audience would be fearful and frightened by the three weird sisters in the play
8	How many acts does Macbeth have and why?	5-follows a conventional Tragedy structure in which the climax results in the death of the main character
9	Who is Macbeth loosely based on?	True events in Scotland in the 11 th century, which would have been known to King James, a throne he inherited through Banquo and Fleance, who appear in the play
10	When was the play set?	11 th century (Medieval period)
11	Who does Macbeth kill at the beginning of the play and why?	A traitor-foreshadowing his own death as a traitor himself
12	Who kills Macbeth?	Macduff
13	Who is King at the end of the play?	Malcolm
14	What does the term ‘hamartia’ mean?	A fatal mistake or a fatal flaw in a tragic hero

15	What does the term 'hubris' mean?	Excessive pride or self-belief
16	What does the term 'peripeteia' mean?	A reversal of fortune, a turning point
17	Why is ambition a key theme in the play?	The witches' prophecies spur Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to fulfil their ambitions, but they never make them do anything
18	How does the play open?	The 3 witches gather to discuss meeting with Macbeth
19	Why does the play open with 'thunder and lightning'?	Creates an uneasy and ominous tone and highlights the possibly danger of the witches
20	What does the term, soliloquy mean?	The act of speaking one's thought aloud