

QUESTIONS ON "MACBETH"

FROM EXAMINATION PAPERS

Pass Matriculation

1. What are the three great crimes of Macbeth? Point out carefully how they differ in character. Show by definite references to the play how far the Weird Sisters influenced Macbeth to commit each of the crimes.

2. (a) Point out carefully the effect produced by the prophecy of the Weird Sisters on Banquo and on Macbeth.

(b) To what extent did Lady Macbeth influence her husband to murder Duncan? What part did she take in the actual murder? What do you think was her motive in the crime? Give reasons for your answer.

3. The time has been, my senses would have cool'd
To hear a night-shriek ; and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir
As life were in 't : I have supp'd full with horrors ;
Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts,
Cannot once start me.

(a) Explain the change in Macbeth's character which he himself points out in these words.

(b) Explain the following words and phrases :—"My senses would have cool'd," "to hear a night-shriek," "fell of hair," "a dismal treatise," "supp'd full with horrors," "Direness," "start."

4. After the scene in which Lady Macbeth faints, on what occasions does she appear in the play, or do other characters refer to her? Discuss each of these appearances or references in relation to Lady Macbeth's character.

5. (a) Outline briefly the events in the play of *Macbeth* which take place between the reading by Lady Macbeth of her husband's letter in which he announces his meeting with the witches (Act I,