Prompt Questions:

1. Annotate and analyse the significance of the setting
2. The Witches’ story about the sailor seems to have little to do with the play. Suggest some reasons for Shakespeare including it.
3. Line 5 is the only time the word ‘witch’ is mentioned in the play. What does this suggest about the way in which Shakespeare wanted the characters to be presented and interpreted?
4. Highlight and annotate any aggressive or violent language or imagery. What is the effect of this?
5. Think about the rhythm of the dialogue amongst the witches. Can you comment on it?

Prompt Questions:

1. What is the contextual significance of the title ‘weird sisters’?
2. Where have you heard Macbeth’s first line from before? Is there anything significant about this echo? What technique is being used and what does it indicate about how Macbeth is feeling?
3. How does Banquo describe the witches? What would the effect on the audience be?
4. How does Shakespeare create a world of confusion through the Witches? How does this link to the theme of chaos and what could this foreshadow regarding Macbeth?
5. Macbeth commands the Witches to answer his questions, ‘Speak, I charge you!’ (line 78) but the Witches fail to obey him. What is Shakespeare getting across to the audience?