

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a character who believes in supernatural power.		Banquo
Point and quote		Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth, Are ye fantastical, or that indeed Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner You greet with present grace and great prediction Of noble having and of royal hope, That he seems rapt withal: to me you speak not. If you can look into the seeds of time, And say which grain will grow and which will not, Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear Your favours nor your hate.
Point and quote		First Witch Hail! Second Witch Hail! Third Witch Hail!
Wider play		* * * * * * * * *
Context link(s)		Macbeth Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more: By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis; But how of Cawdor? The thane of Cawdor lives, A prosperous gentleman; and to be king Stands not within the prospect of belief, No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence You owe this strange intelligence? or why Upon this blasted heath you stop our way With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you. (The Witches vanish)

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 Scene 3

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a character tortured by his own ambition.

Point and quote	
Point and quote	
Point and quote	
Wider play	
Context link(s)	

Macbeth

This supernatural soliciting
 Cannot be ill, cannot be good: if ill,
 Why hath it given me earnest of success,
 Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:
 If good, why do I yield to that suggestion
 Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair
 And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,
 Against the use of nature? Present fears
 Are less than horrible imaginings:
 My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
 Shakes so my single state of man that function
 Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is
 But what is not.

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 scene 5

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about ambition in the play.

Lady Macbeth

Point and quote

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
 What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature;
 It is too full o' the milk of human kindness
 To catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great;
 Art not without ambition, but without

Point and quote

The illness should attend it: what thou wouldst highly,
 That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,
 And yet wouldst wrongly win: thou'ldst have, great Glamis,
 That which cries 'Thus thou must do, if thou have it;
 And that which rather thou dost fear to do

Point and quote

Than wishest should be undone.' Hie thee hither,
 That I may pour my spirits in thine ear;
 And chastise with the valour of my tongue
 All that impedes thee from the golden round,
 Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem
 To have thee crown'd withal.

Wider play

Context link(s)

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 Scene 5

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a “fiend-like queen”. (fiendish = devilish)

Lady Macbeth

Point and quote

The raven himself is hoarse
 That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
 Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
 That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
 And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
 Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood;
 Stop up the access and passage to remorse,
 That no compunctious visitings of nature
 Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
 The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
 And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers,
 Wherever in your sightless substances
 You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
 And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,
 That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
 Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
 To cry 'Hold, hold!'

Point and quote

Point and quote

Wider play

Context link(s)

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 Scene 5

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as the dominant partner in this relationship.

LADY MACBETH

Point and quote

O, never
 Shall sun that morrow see!
 Your face, my thane, is as a book where men
 May read strange matters. To beguile the time,
 Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,
 Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent
 flower,
 But be the serpent under't. He that's coming
 Must be provided for: and you shall put
 This night's great business into my dispatch;
 Which shall to all our nights and days to come
 Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

Point and quote

Point and quote

MACBETH

Wider play

We will speak further.

LADY MACBETH

Context link(s)

Only look up clear;
 To alter favour ever is to fear:
 Leave all the rest to me.

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 Scene 6

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Duncan as a model of kingship in the play.

Point and quote

DUNCAN

See, see, our honour'd hostess!
The love that follows us sometime is our trouble,
Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you
How you shall bid God 'ild us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.

Point and quote

LADY MACBETH

All our service
In every point twice done and then done double
Were poor and single business to contend
Against those honours deep and broad
wherewith
Your majesty loads our house: for those of old,
And the late dignities heap'd up to them,
We rest your hermits.

Point and quote

DUNCAN

Where's the thane of Cawdor?
We coursed him at the heels, and had a purpose
To be his purveyor: but he rides well;
And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp
him
To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess,
We are your guest to-night.

Wider play

Context link(s)

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 Scene 7

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a character troubled by doubts and fears.

Point and quote

Point and quote

Point and quote

Wider play

Context link(s)

Macbeth

He's here in double trust;
 First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
 Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
 Who should against his murderer shut the door,
 Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
 Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
 So clear in his great office, that his virtues
 Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
 The deep damnation of his taking-off;
 And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
 Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim, horsed
 Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
 Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
 That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur
 To prick the sides of my intent, but only
 Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself
 And falls on the other.

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 scene 7

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a weak character.

Point and quote

MACBETH

We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.

Point and quote

LADY MACBETH

Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love. Art thou afraid
To be the same in thine own act and valour
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'
Like the poor cat i' the adage?

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Point and quote

Wider play

MACBETH

I am settled, and bend up
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Context link(s)

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 scene 7

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Banquo and Macbeth in the play.

Point and quote		<p>BANQUO All's well. I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters: To you they have show'd some truth.</p>
Point and quote		<p>MACBETH I think not of them: Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve, We would spend it in some words upon that business, If you would grant the time.</p>
Point and quote		<p>BANQUO At your kind'st leisure.</p>
Wider play		<p>MACBETH If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis, It shall make honour for you.</p>
Context link(s)		<p>BANQUO So I lose none In seeking to augment it, but still keep My bosom franchised and allegiance clear, I shall be counsell'd.</p>

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 1 Scene 7

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a victim of supernatural influence beyond his control.

Point and quote	
Point and quote	
Point and quote	
Wider play	
Context link(s)	

MACBETH

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
 The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
 I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
 Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
 To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
 A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
 Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
 I see thee yet, in form as palpable
 As this which now I draw.
 Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;
 And such an instrument I was to use.
 Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
 Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,
 And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
 Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
 It is the bloody business which informs
 Thus to mine eyes.

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 2 Scene 4

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents attitudes to kingship and the natural order in the play.

Point and quote		<p>OLD MAN Threescore and ten I can remember well: Within the volume of which time I have seen Hours dreadful and things strange; but this sore night Hath trifled former knowings.</p>
Point and quote		<p>ROSS Ah, good father, Thou seest, the heavens, as troubled with man's act, Threaten his bloody stage: by the clock, 'tis day, And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp: Is't night's predominance, or the day's shame, That darkness does the face of earth entomb, When living light should kiss it?</p>
Point and quote		<p>OLD MAN 'Tis unnatural, Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last, A falcon, towering in her pride of place, Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at and kill'd.</p>
Wider play		<p>ROSS And Duncan's horses--a thing most strange and certain-- Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race, Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out, Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would make War with mankind.</p>
Context link(s)		

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 3 Scene 1

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the changing relationship between Macbeth and Banquo.

Point and quote	
Point and quote	
Point and quote	
Wider play	
Context link(s)	

BANQUO

Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
 As the weird women promised, and, I fear,
 Thou play'dst most foully for't: yet it was said
 It should not stand in thy posterity,
 But that myself should be the root and father
 Of many kings. If there come truth from them--
 As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine--
 Why, by the verities on thee made good,
 May they not be my oracles as well,
 And set me up in hope? But hush! no more.

*Enter MACBETH, as king, LADY MACBETH, as queen, LENNOX,
 ROSS, Lords, Ladies, and Attendants*

MACBETH

Here's our chief guest.
 To-night we hold a solemn supper sir,
 And I'll request your presence.

BANQUO

Let your highness
 Command upon me; to the which my duties
 Are with a most indissoluble tie
 For ever knit.

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 3 Scene 1

Starting with this extract, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a character who is motivated by fear.

MACBETH

Point and quote

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 fear'd: 'tis much he dares;

Point and quote

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,

Point and quote

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:

Wider play

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;

Context link(s)

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!

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 3 Scene 2

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a character troubled by doubts and fears.

Point and quote

LADY MACBETH

Nought's had, all's spent,
Where our desire is got without content:
'Tis safer to be that which we destroy
Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.

Point and quote

(Enter MACBETH)

Point and quote

How now, my lord! why do you keep alone,
Of sorriest fancies your companions making,
Using those thoughts which should indeed have died
With them they think on? Things without all remedy
Should be without regard: what's done is done.

Wider play

Context link(s)

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 3 Scene 2

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as the dominant partner in this relationship.

Point and quote		<p>LADY MACBETH You must leave this.</p> <p>MACBETH O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife! Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.</p>
Point and quote		<p>LADY MACBETH But in them nature's copy's not eterne.</p> <p>MACBETH There's comfort yet; they are assailable; Then be thou jocund: ere the bat hath flown His cloister'd flight, ere to black Hecate's summons The shard-borne beetle with his drowsy hums Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be done A deed of dreadful note.</p>
Point and quote		<p>LADY MACBETH What's to be done?</p> <p>MACBETH Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, Till thou applaud the deed.</p>
Wider play		
Context link(s)		

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 4 Scene 3

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents ideas about masculinity in the play.

Point and quote

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MACDUFF

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

Point and quote

--

MALCOLM

Dispute it like a man.

Point and quote

--

MACDUFF

I shall do so;
But I must also feel it as a man:
I cannot but remember such things were,
That were most precious to me. Did heaven look on,
And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff,
They were all struck for thee! naught that I am,
Not for their own demerits, but for mine,
Fell slaughter on their souls. Heaven rest them now!

Wider play

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Context link(s)

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English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 5 Scene 1

Starting with this extract, explore how far Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a weak character.

Point and quote

LADY MACBETH

The thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now?--
What, will these hands ne'er be clean?--No more o'
that, my lord, no more o' that: you mar all with
this starting.

Point and quote

DOCTOR

Go to, go to; you have known what you should not.

Point and quote

GENTLEWOMAN

She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of
that: heaven knows what she has known.

Wider play

LADY MACBETH

Here's the smell of the blood still: all the
perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little
hand. Oh, oh, oh!

DOCTOR

What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.

Context link(s)

GENTLEWOMAN

I would not have such a heart in my bosom for the
dignity of the whole body.

English Literature Paper 1 – Shakespeare: Act 5 Scene 8

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as tragic hero.

Point and quote

MACBETH

I bear a charmed life, which must not yield,
To one of woman born.

MACDUFF

Despair thy charm;
And let the angel whom thou still hast served
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd.

Point and quote

MACBETH

Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cow'd my better part of man!
And be these juggling fiends no more believed,
That palter with us in a double sense;
That keep the word of promise to our ear,
And break it to our hope. I'll not fight with thee.

Point and quote

MACDUFF

Then yield thee, coward,
And live to be the show and gaze o' the time:
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted on a pole, and underwrit,
'Here may you see the tyrant.'

Wider play

MACBETH

I will not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,
And to be baited with the rabble's curse.
Though Birnam wood be come to Dunsinane,
And thou opposed, being of no woman born,
Yet I will try the last. Before my body
I throw my warlike shield. Lay on, Macduff,
And damn'd be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!'

Context link(s)