

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the Scottish army, led by Macbeth and Banquo are fighting a Norwegian invasion and a rebel army led by Macdonald.

### **Sergeant**

Doubtful it stood;  
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together  
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald--  
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that  
The multiplying villanies of nature  
Do swarm upon him--from the western isles  
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;  
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,  
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:  
For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--  
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,  
Which smoked with bloody execution,  
Like valour's minion carved out his passage  
Till he faced the slave;  
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,  
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,  
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

### **DUNCAN**

O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a powerful character?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a powerful character in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a powerful character in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Lady Macbeth is reading a letter from Macbeth.

### Lady Macbeth

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 murdering 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!'

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a dangerous character?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a dangerous character in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a dangerous character in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 7 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth is considering whether to kill Duncan.

### Macbeth

If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well  
It were done quickly: if the assassination  
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch  
With his surcease success; that but this blow  
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,  
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,  
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases  
We still have judgment here; that we but teach  
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return  
To plague the inventor: this even-handed justice  
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice  
To our own lips. 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.

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare the issue of morality?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the theme of morality in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the theme of morality in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 7 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are considering whether to kill Duncan.

### **LADY MACBETH**

What beast was't, then,  
That made you break this enterprise to me?  
When you durst do it, then you were a man;  
And, to be more than what you were, you would  
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place  
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:  
They have made themselves, and that their fitness  
now

Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know  
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:  
I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,  
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you  
Have done to this.

### **MACBETH**

If we should fail?

### **LADY MACBETH**

We fail!  
But screw your courage to the sticking-place,  
And we'll not fail

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Lady Macbeth as a powerful woman?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a powerful woman in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a powerful woman in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are discussing their thoughts following the murder of Duncan.

### LADY MACBETH

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.

### MACBETH

We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it:  
She'll close and be herself, whilst our poor malice  
Remains in danger of her former tooth.  
But let the frame of things disjoint, both the  
worlds suffer,  
Ere we will eat our meal in fear and sleep  
In the affliction of these terrible dreams  
That shake us nightly: better be with the dead,  
Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace,  
Than on the torture of the mind to lie  
In restless ecstasy. Duncan is in his grave;  
After life's fitful fever he sleeps well;  
Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison,  
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing,  
Can touch him further.

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present the theme of morality?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the theme of morality in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the theme of morality in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are discussing their thoughts following the murder of Duncan.

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present the theme of guilt?

**LADY MACBETH**

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

**MACBETH**

There's one did laugh in's sleep, and one cried  
'Murder!'

That they did wake each other: I stood and heard them:  
But they did say their prayers, and address'd them  
Again to sleep.

**LADY MACBETH**

There are two lodged together.

**MACBETH**

One cried 'God bless us!' and 'Amen' the other;  
As they had seen me with these hangman's hands.  
Listening their fear, I could not say 'Amen,'  
When they did say 'God bless us!'

**LADY MACBETH**

Consider it not so deeply.

**MACBETH**

But wherefore could not I pronounce 'Amen'?  
I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen'  
Stuck in my throat.

**LADY MACBETH**

These deeds must not be thought  
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

**MACBETH**

Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more!  
Macbeth does murder sleep', the innocent sleep,  
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,  
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,  
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,  
Chief nourisher in life's feast,--

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the theme of guilt in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the theme of guilt in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth is asking the witches questions about their prophecies.

### HECATE

O well done! I commend your pains;  
And every one shall share i' the gains;  
And now about the cauldron sing,  
Live elves and fairies in a ring,  
Enchanting all that you put in.

*Music and a song: 'Black spirits,' & c*

*HECATE retires*

### Second Witch

By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes.  
Open, locks,  
Whoever knocks!

*Enter MACBETH*

### MACBETH

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags!  
What is't you do?

### ALL

A deed without a name.

### MACBETH

I conjure you, by that which you profess,  
Howe'er you come to know it, answer me:  
Though you untie the winds and let them fight  
Against the churches; though the yesty waves  
Confound and swallow navigation up;  
Though bladed corn be lodged and trees blown down;  
Though castles topple on their warders' heads;  
Though palaces and pyramids do slope  
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure  
Of nature's germens tumble all together,  
Even till destruction sicken; answer me

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present the idea of the supernatural?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the idea of the supernatural in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the idea of the supernatural in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, a doctor has been called to see Lady Macbeth.

**LADY MACBETH**

Out, damned spot! out, I say!--One: two: why, then, 'tis time to do't.--Hell is murky!--Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard? What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account?--Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him.

**Doctor**

Do you mark that?

**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.

...

**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.

**Gentlewoman**

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

**Doctor**

This disease is beyond my practise: yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds.

...

**LADY MACBETH**

To bed, to bed! there's knocking at the gate: come, come, come, come, give me your hand. What's done cannot be undone.--To bed, to bed, to bed!

*Exit*

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present the theme of guilt?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the theme of guilt in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the theme of guilt in the play as a whole

[30 marks]  
[AO4 4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 1 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth is considering whether to kill Duncan.

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. Now o'er the one halfworld  
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse  
The curtain'd sleep; witchcraft celebrates  
Pale Hecate's offerings, and wither'd murder,  
Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,  
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace.  
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design  
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,  
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear  
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,  
And take the present horror from the time,  
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:  
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth's inner conflict. Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's inner conflict in this speech
  - how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's inner conflict in the play as a whole
- [30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 4 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth sees the ghost of Banquo.

*Re-enter GHOST OF BANQUO*

**MACBETH**

Avaunt! and quit my sight! let the earth hide thee!  
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;  
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes  
Which thou dost glare with!

**LADY MACBETH**

Think of this, good peers,  
But as a thing of custom: 'tis no other;  
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.

**MACBETH**

What man dare, I dare:  
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,  
The arm'd rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger;  
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves  
Shall never tremble: or be alive again,  
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;  
If trembling I inhabit then, protest me  
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!  
Unreal mockery, hence!

*GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes*

Why, so: being gone,  
I am a man again. Pray you, sit still.

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the theme of guilt. Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the theme of guilt in this speech
  - how Shakespeare presents the theme of guilt in the play as a whole
- [30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

## Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 7 and answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are considering whether to kill Duncan.

### **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.

### **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 afeard  
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?

### **MACBETH**

Prithee, peace:  
I dare do all that may become a man;  
Who dares do more is none.

### **LADY MACBETH**

What beast was't, then,  
That made you break this enterprise to me?  
When you durst do it, then you were a man;  
And, to be more than what you were, you would  
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place  
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:  
They have made themselves, and that their fitness now  
Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know  
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:  
I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,  
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you  
Have done to this.

Starting with this speech, explain how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents their relationship in this speech
  - how Shakespeare presents their relationship in the play as a whole
- [30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]