

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play Lady Macbeth is speaking. She has just received the news that King Duncan will be spending the night at her castle.

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 topfull
Of direst cruelty; make thick my blood,
Stop up th'access and passage to remorse
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose nor keep peace between
Th'effect and it. Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring minsters,
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 speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a powerful woman.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

SPaG [4 marks]

Macbeth

At this point in the play, Banquo and Macbeth have just met the witches. The witches have just told Macbeth he will one day be the King of Scotland.

BANQUO 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.	5
First Witch Hail!	
Second Witch Hail!	
Third Witch Hail!	
First Witch Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.	15
Second Witch Not so happy, yet much happier.	
Third Witch Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none: So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!	
First Witch Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!	
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.	20
(The Witches vanish)	25

Starting with this conversation, explain how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a character who believes in the **supernatural power of the witches**.

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents Macbeth's reaction to the witches here
- How Shakespeare presents his beliefs in them elsewhere in the play.

Macbeth

Read the following question from Act 5 Scene 3 of Macbeth and then answer the question that follows. At this point in the play Macbeth is under siege from the English army.

	MACBETH
	Bring me no more reports; let them fly all: Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane, I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm? Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know
5	All mortal consequences have pronounced me thus: 'Fear not, Macbeth; no man that's born of woman Shall e'er have power upon thee.' Then fly, false thanes,
	And mingle with the English epicures:
10	The mind I sway by and the heart I bear Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear. <i>Enter a Servant</i> The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon! Where got'st thou that goose look?

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a hero.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the witches have met and are now ready to meet Macbeth and deliver his predictions.

ALL (3witches chant)

The weird sisters, hand in hand,
Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go about, about:
Thrice to thine and thrice to mine
And thrice again, to make up nine.
Peace! the charm's wound up.

Enter MACBETH and BANQUO

MACBETH

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

BANQUO

How far is't call'd to Forres? What are these
So wither'd and so wild in their attire,
That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught
That man may question? You seem to understand me,
By each at once her chappy finger laying
Upon her skinny lips: you should be women,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

0.1

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the witches.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the witches in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the witches and/or other smaller characters in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]

At this point in the play, Macbeth has decided he will **not** kill King Duncan. He is just about to share this news with his wife, Lady Macbeth.

<p>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.</p>	5
<p>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?</p>	10 15
<p>MACBETH Prithee, peace: I dare do all that may become a man; Who dares do more is none.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	20

Q1: Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as the **dominant partner** in this relationship.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this speech
 - how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth elsewhere in the play. [30 marks]
- SPAG [4 marks]

Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Malcolm and Macduff have not yet heard that Macbeth has killed Macduff's family. They are discussing Macbeth. Malcolm acknowledges that Macduff has good intentions.

MALCOLM

Macduff, this noble passion,
Child of integrity, hath from my soul
Wiped the black scruples, reconciled my thoughts
To thy good truth and honour. Devilish Macbeth
By many of these trains hath sought to win me
Into his power, and modest wisdom plucks me
From over-credulous haste: but God above
Deal between thee and me! for even now
I put myself to thy direction, and
Unspeak mine own detraction, here abjure
The taints and blames I laid upon myself,
For strangers to my nature. I am yet
Unknown to woman, never was forsworn,
Scarcely have coveted what was mine own,
At no time broke my faith, would not betray
The devil to his fellow and delight
No less in truth than life: my first false speaking
Was this upon myself: what I am truly,
Is thine and my poor country's to command:
Whither indeed, before thy here-approach,
Old Siward, with ten thousand warlike men,
Already at a point, was setting forth.
Now we'll together; and the chance of goodness
Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are you silent?

MACDUFF

Such welcome and unwelcome things at once
'Tis hard to reconcile.

0.1

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents good and evil.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the goodness of Malcolm and Macduff in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents good and evil in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]

Macbeth

Read the following extract from the end of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth is about to be killed by Macduff.

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.

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.

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.'

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!'

0.1

Starting with this extract, explain how bravery is presented

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth and Macduff in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents bravery/ brave characters in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]

Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth has arranged the killing of Banquo and is reflecting on the killing of Duncan.

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.

LADY MACBETH

Come on;
Gentle my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks;
Be bright and jovial among your guests to-night.

MACBETH

So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you:
Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;
Present him eminence, both with eye and tongue:
Unsafe the while, that we
Must lave our honours in these flattering streams,
And make our faces vizards to our hearts,
Disguising what they are.

LADY MACBETH

You must leave this.

0.1

Starting with this extract, explain how you think Shakespeare presents deceitfulness.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents deception in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents deceit in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]

Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth is arranging to have Banquo killed.

MACBETH

Bring them before us.

Exit Attendant

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;
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,
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:
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;
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! Who's there!
Re-enter Attendant, with two Murderers
Now go to the door, and stay there till we call.

0.1

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents confusion and difficult decisions.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents confusion and difficult decisions in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents difficult decisions or confusion in the rest of the play.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play Duncan's sons are considering what they should do to be safe after the death of their father, the king..

Exeunt all but Malcolm and Donalbain.

MALCOLM

What will you do? Let's not consort with them: To show an unfelt sorrow is an office Which the false man does easy. I'll to England.

DONALBAIN

To Ireland, I; our separated fortune Shall keep us both the safer: where we are, There's daggers in men's smiles: the near in blood, The nearer bloody.

MALCOLM

This murderous shaft that's shot Hath not yet lighted, and our safest way Is to avoid the aim. Therefore, to horse; And let us not be dainty of leave-taking, But shift away: there's warrant in that theft Which steals itself, when there's no mercy left.

Exeunt

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents fear.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents fear in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents fear in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]