

# Macbeth Revision

## English Literature Examination

### (Paper 1)

*You will answer one question on Macbeth. It will be based on an extract but you will **need to refer to the entire play.***

# Act I

What happens in each scene? Briefly discuss the events:

Quotations based on characters:

Quotations based on theme:

Links to other scenes in the play?  
(What does it foreshadow? Any parallels?)

# Act II

What happens in each scene? Briefly discuss the events:

Quotations based on characters:

Quotations based on theme:

Links to other scenes in the play?  
(What does it foreshadow? Any parallels?)

# Act III

What happens in each scene? Briefly discuss the events:

Quotations based on characters:

Quotations based on theme:

Links to other scenes in the play?  
(What does it foreshadow? Any parallels?)

# Act IV

What happens in each scene? Briefly discuss the events:

Quotations based on characters:

Quotations based on theme:

Links to other scenes in the play?  
(What does it foreshadow? Any parallels?)

# Act V

What happens in each scene? Briefly discuss the events:

Quotations based on characters:

Quotations based on theme:

Links to other scenes in the play?  
(What does it foreshadow? Any parallels?)

# Example Essay Questions

Complete these over the next year and submit for feedback. The skills needed for these questions are transferable to the other units.

- 1) How does Shakespeare present Macbeth in the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1?

Enter MACBETH	
MACBETH	How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags! What is't you do?
ALL THE WITCHES	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 yeasty 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 germen tumble altogether Even till destruction sicken: answer me To what I ask you.
FIRST WITCH	Speak.
SECOND WITCH	Demand.
THIRD WITCH	We'll answer.
FIRST WITCH	Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths, Or from our masters'?
MACBETH	Call 'em, let me see 'em.

2. How do you think the witches influence Macbeth as a whole (use Act 1 Scene 1 as your extract)?
3. How are Macduff and his family important in the play as a whole (use Act 4 Scene 3 lines 180-230 as your extract)?
4. What is significant about the development of Lady Macbeth's character (use Act V Scene 1 lines 35-60 as your extract)?

In the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3, Macduff has just been told of the murder of his wife and children.

How does Shakespeare use language to suggest ideas about good and evil in this extract?

**MALCOLM** Dispute it like a man.

**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.

**MALCOLM** Be this the whetstone of your sword, let grief  
Convert to anger. Blunt not the heart, enrage it.

**MACDUFF** O, I could play the woman with mine eyes  
And braggart with my tongue. But, gentle heavens,  
Cut short all intermission. Front to front  
Bring thou this fiend of Scotland and myself;  
Within my sword's length set him. If he scape,  
Heaven forgive him too.

**MALCOLM** This tune goes manly.  
Come, go we to the king; our power is ready;  
Our lack is nothing but our leave. Macbeth  
Is ripe for shaking, and the powers above  
Put on their instruments. Receive what cheer you may:  
The night is long that never finds the day.

*Exeunt*

How does Shakespeare present Macbeth in the following extract from Act 5 Scene 3?

**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  
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;  
The mind I sway by and the heart I bear  
Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear.

*Enter SERVANT*

The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon.  
Where got'st thou that goose-look?

**SERVANT** There is ten thousand –

**MACBETH** Geese, villain?

**SERVANT** Soldiers, sir.

**MACBETH** Go prick thy face and over-red thy fear,  
Thou lily-livered boy. What soldiers, patch?  
Death of thy soul, those linen cheeks of thine  
Are counsellors to fear. What soldiers, whey-face?

**SERVANT** The English force, so please you.

**MACBETH** Take thy face hence!

*[Exit Servant]*



What does the following extract from Act 5 Scene 5 tell you about the thoughts and feelings of Macbeth at this point in the play?

You should write about:

- what Macbeth's thoughts and feelings are
- how Shakespeare shows these thoughts and feelings by the ways he writes.

**MACBETH** I have almost forgot the taste of fears;  
The time has been, my senses would have cooled  
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 supped full with horrors;  
Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts  
Cannot once start me. Wherefore was that cry?  
**SEYTON** The queen, my lord, is dead.  
**MACBETH** She should have died hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word.  
Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time;  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle,  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more. It is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury  
Signifying nothing.

- Create a strong introduction that exemplifies the importance of the extract to the rest of the play.
- You must refer to the extract and the wider play – embed **short, concise** quotations throughout your response.
- Embed references to social and contextual factors throughout your response.
- Specifically analyse key elements of language using terminology
- Consider Shakespeare's aims and intentions.
- Focus on the academic register of your essay and the coherence of your response - use discourse markers to coherently shape your essay.

**Hand in for feedback and ask if you have any questions!**