Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth is considering whether or not he should 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
5 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 evenhanded justice
Commends the ingre of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust;
15 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 cherubm, horse\nd
1

Up

25

30

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.

Q1: Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as ambitious.

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 Act 2

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

At this point in the play Macbeth and Banquo are at M's castle; it is late at night. They meet outside.

BANQUO
Hold, take my sword. There's husbandry in heaven; Their candles are all out. Take thee that too. A heavy summons lies like lead upon me, And yet I would not sleep: merciful powers, Restrain in me the cursed thoughts that nature Gives way to in repose!

Enter MACBETH, and a Servant with a torch
Give me my sword. Who's there?

MACBETH
A friend.

BANQUO
What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-bed: He hath been in unusual pleasure, and Sent forth great largess to your offices. This diamond he greets your wife withal, By the name of most kind hostess; and shut up In measureless content.

MACBETH
Being unprepared,
Our will became the servant to defect; Which else should free have wrought.

BANQUO
All's well.
I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters: To you they have show'd some truth.

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.

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare portray Banquo?

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents Banquo in this scene.
- How Shakespeare presents Banquo in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]
Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth has returned from killing Duncan.

MACBETH
Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine eyes.
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood

Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will father
The multitudinous seas in incarnadine,
Making the green one red.
Re-enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH
My hands are of your colour, but I shame
To wear a heart so white.

Knocking within

I hear a knocking
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;
A little water clears us of this deed:
How easy is it, then! Your constancy
Hath left you unattended.

Knocking within

Hark! more knocking.
Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us,
And show us to be watchers. Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

MACBETH
To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

Knocking within

Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

Exeunt

Q1: Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present ideas about guilt in Macbeth?

Write about:
• the guilt of the characters in the extract.
• how Shakespeare presents guilt in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]
Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth has returned from killing Duncan.

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;--

LADY MACBETH
What do you mean?

MACBETH
Still it cried 'Sleep no more!' to all the house:
'Glamis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore Cawdor
Shall sleep no more; Macbeth shall sleep no more.'

LADY MACBETH
Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthythane,
You do unbend your noble strength, to think
So brainsickly of things. Go get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.

Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there: go carry them; and smear
The sleepy grooms with blood.

Q1: Starting with this exchange, explore how far Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as controlling.

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this exchange.
• how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]
Macbeth
Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 4 of Macbeth and then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are hosting a banquet in the palace.

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
5
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,
10
The arm'd rhinoceros, or the Hycan 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

15
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.

Q1: 'Macbeth’s character changes and he becomes mentally unstable after killing Duncan'.
Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this statement.
Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this extract
• how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.
[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]
Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Lady Macbeth is seen sleepwalking in the castle at Dunsinane.

Doctor
How came she by that light?

Gentlewoman
Why, it stood by her: she has light by her continually; 'tis her command.

Doctor
You see, her eyes are open.

Gentlewoman

Ay, but their sense is shut.

Doctor
What is it she does now? Look, how she rubs her hands.

Gentlewoman
It is an accustomed action with her, to seem thus washing her hands: I have known her continue in this a quarter of an hour.

LADY MACBETH

Yet here's a spot.

Doctor
Hark! she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

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?

Q1: Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth's state of mind.

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this extract
• how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]
Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Malcolm and his army are approaching Macbeth’s castle at Dunsinane.

MACBETH
I have almost forgot the taste of fears;
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir

5 As life were in't: I have supp'd full with horrors;
Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts
Cannot once start me.

Re-enter SEYTON
Wherefore was that cry?

SEYTON
The queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH
10 She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word.
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time,

15 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

20 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

Enter a Messenger
Thou comest to use thy tongue; thy story quickly.

Q1: Starting with this extract, how far does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a fearless character?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this extract
• how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]
William Shakespeare: 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 worried about Banquo's suspicions.

Forres. The palace.
Enter BANQUO

BANQUO
Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and, I fear,
Thou play'fst most fouly 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.

Senment sounded. Enter MACBETH, as king, LADY MACBETH, as queen, LENNOX, ROSS, Lords, Ladies, and Attendants

MACBETH
Here's our chief guest.

LADY MACBETH
If he had been forgotten,
It had been as a gap in our great feast,
And all things unbecoming.

MACBETH
Here's our chief guest.

LADY MACBETH
If he had been forgotten,
It had been as a gap in our great feast,
And all things unbecoming.

MACBETH
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
Far ever knit.

MACBETH
Ride you this afternoon?

Starting with this scene, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Banquo as a symbol of Macbeth’s conscience.

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents Banquo in this scene.
- how Shakespeare presents Banquo in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]
William Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 8 of Macbeth and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth encounters Macduff in the depths of battle.

MACBETH

Why should I play the Roman fool, and die
On mine own sword? whilsts I see lives, the gashes
Do better upon them.

Enter MACDUFF

MACDUFF

Turn, hell-bound, turn!

MACBETH

Of all men else I have avoided thee:
But get thee back; my soul is too much charg'd
With blood of thine alrea dy.

MACDUFF

I have no words:
My voice is in my sword: thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out!

They fight

MACBETH

Thou lostest labour:
As easy mayst thou the intrenchant air
With thy keen sword impress as make me bleed:
Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests:
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.

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.

Starting with this scene, explain how you think Shakespeare presents bravery and courage.

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents bravery and courage in this scene.
- how Shakespeare presents bravery and courage in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]
Section A: Shakespeare
Answer one question from this section on your chosen text.

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 save our honours in these flattering streams,
And make our faces wizards to our hearts,
Disguising what they are.

LADY MACBETH
You must leave this.

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]
Section A: Shakespeare
Answer one question from this section on your chosen text.

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,
Scarce 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]
Section A: Shakespeare
Answer one question from this section on your chosen text.

*Macbeth*

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 4 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 (3 witches 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 chubby 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]