

Grade

12

MIND THE GAP!

English First Additional Language

Macbeth

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Study Guide



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Department:
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Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) Grade 12 English First Additional Language Mind the Gap study guide for the Drama: **Macbeth by William Shakespeare.**

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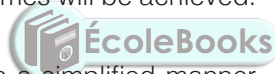
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Ministerial Foreword

The Department of Basic Education remains steadfastly committed to innovative strategies aimed at enhancing learner attainment. Consistent with the government's commitment in promoting the indigenous languages that form the tapestry of our democratic landscape, this Mind the Gap Self study guide is a concrete demonstration of this commitment.

The release of this self-study guide incorporates all the official African Home Languages focusing on the novel genre at this stage. Not only does the study guide incorporate the African languages, but it also incorporates South African Sign Language Home Language, Afrikaans Home Language and English First Additional Language.

The Mind the Gap Literature Self Study Guide is responding to the broader sectoral reading challenges that the country is experiencing. It seeks to strengthen the following strands of the National Reading Sector Plan: Teacher Development and Support; Direct Learner Support; and Provisioning and Utilisation of the Learning and Teaching Support Materials. Its interactive nature will make it easier for both teachers and learners to read, to learn or study. It is hoped that through this Study Guide, the reading and learning outcomes will be achieved.



Key terminologies are explained or illustrated in a simplified manner and examples of the types of questions as a learner you may expect to be asked in an examination, are included in this study guide. In order to build your understanding, specific questions and possible responses forms part of the study guide package.

The study guide is designed to appeal to any learner offering Grade 12, whether as a part-time or a full-time candidate. Educators in the field will also find it an invaluable resource in their practice.

Every learner is a national asset, all you need now is to put in the hours required to prepare for the examinations and excel!
We wish each and every one of you good luck and success.

MRS AM MOTSHEKGA, MP

MINISTER

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019



Matsie Angelina Motshekga, MP
Minister of Basic Education

Table of contents

Dear Grade 12 learner	i
How to use this study guide.....	i
Top 7 study tips	ii
On the exam day	ii
Overview of the English First Additional Language Paper 2: Literature Exam.....	iii
What are the examiners looking for?.....	v
Question words	vi
Vocabulary for Macbeth	vii

Overview.....	15
1. Introduction.....	15
1.1. Background.....	16
1.2. Elizabethan Society.....	16
1.3. Shakespeare's English.....	17
1.4. Shakespeare's theatre.....	17
2. How the play is told.....	17
2.1 Setting.....	17
2.2 Characters.....	17
2.3 Theplot.....	23
2.4 The Play in one page	28
2.5 Themes.....	28
3. Style.....	32
3.1 Poetry and prose.....	32
3.2 Diction and figurative language.....	32
3.3 Dramatic Irony and Irony.....	33
3.4 Stage directions.....	33
3.5 Tone and mood.....	33

Dramatic Structure of the play.....	35
Act by Act.....	38
Act1.....	39
Act1,Scene1.....	39
What happens?.....	39
Act1,Scene2.....	40
What happens?.....	40
Activity1.....	41
Act 1, Scene 3.....	42
What happens?.....	42
Activity 2.....	43
Act1,Scene4.....	43
What happens?.....	43
Activity 3.....	45
Act1,Scene5.....	46
What happens?.....	46
Activity 4.....	47
Act1,Scene6.....	48
What happens?.....	48
Activity 5.....	48
What happens?.....	48
Activity 6.....	51
Act 2.....	52
Act 2, Scene 1.....	52
What happens?.....	52
Activity 7	53
Act 2, Scene 2.....	54
What happens?.....	54
Activity8.....	55
Act 2, Scene 3.....	57

What happens?	57
Activity 9	58
Act 2, Scene 4	59
What happens?	59
Activity 10	60
Act 3	61
Act 3, Scene 1	61
What happens?	61
Activity 11	61
Act 3, Scene 2	62
What happens?	62
Activity 12	63
Act 3, Scene 3	64
What happens?	64
Activity 13	64
Act 3, Scene 4	64
What happens?	64
Activity 14	66
Act 3, Scene 5	67
What happens?	67
Activity 15	67
Act 3, Scene 6	68
What happens?	68
Activity 16	69
Act 4	69
Act 4, Scene 1	69
What happens?	69
Activity 17	70
Act 4, Scene 2	71
What happens?	71
Activity 18	72
Act 4, Scene 3	73
What happens?	73
Activity 19	73
Act 5	74
Act 5, Scene 1	74
What happens?	74
Activity 20	74
Act 5, Scene 2	76
What happens?	76
Activity 21	76
Act 5, Scene 3	77
What happens?	77
Activity 22	78
Act 5, Scene 4	79
What happens?	79
Activity 23	80
Act 5, Scene 5	81
What happens?	81
Activity 24	81
Act 5, Scene 6	82
What happens?	82
Activity 25	82
Act 5, Scene 7	83
What happens?	83
Activity 26	83
Act 5, Scene 8	84
What happens?	84
Activity 27	84
Act 5, Scene 9	85
What happens?	85
Activity 28	86

Dear Grade 12 learner

This Mind the Gap study guide helps you to prepare for the end-of-year Grade 12 English First Additional Language (EFAL) Literature exam.

There are three exams for EFAL: Paper 1: Language in Context; Paper 2: Literature; and Paper 3: Writing. There are eight great EFAL Mind the Gap study guides which cover Papers 1, 2 and 3. Paper 2: Literature includes the study of novels, drama, short stories and poetry. A Mind the Gap study guide is available for each of the prescribed literature titles. Choose the study guide for the set works you studied in your EFAL class at school.

This study guide focuses on William Shakespeare's play, Macbeth, one of the set works in Paper 2: Literature.

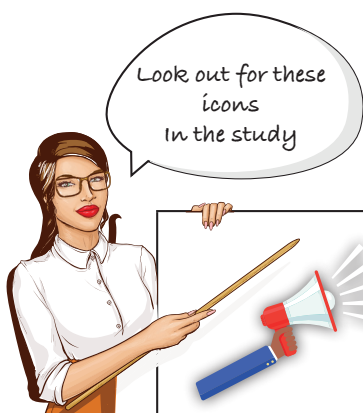
How to use this study guide




In the introduction to the guide (pages 1 to 15), you find out about the author and the current events that influenced him. There is also an overview of how the story is told.

From page 17 to 103 you can work through each act in the play to understand:

- The characters;
- What happens and who is involved;
- The themes;
- The symbols; and
- Diction and figurative language.

You can test your understanding of each act by completing the activities, and using the answers to mark your own work. The activities are based on exam extracts



	Pay special attention		Hints to help you remember a concept or guide you in solving problems		Activities with questions for you to answer
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Top 7 study tips

Try these study guide tips to make learning easier.

1. Break your learning up into manageable sections. This will help your brain to focus. Take short breaks between studying one section and going onto the next.
2. Have all your materials ready before you begin studying a section – pencils, pens, highlighters, paper, glass of water, etc.
3. Be positive. It helps your brain hold on to the information.
4. Your brain learns well with colours and pictures. Try to use them whenever you can.
5. Repetition is the key to remembering information you have to learn. Keep going over the work until you can recall it with ease.
6. Teach what you are learning to anyone who will listen. It is definitely worth reading your revision notes aloud.
7. Sleeping for at least eight hours every night, eating healthy food and drinking plenty of water are all important things you need to do for your brain. Studying for exams is like exercise, so you must be prepared physically as well as mentally.

use this study guide as a workbook, make notes, draw pictures, and highlight important ideas.



On the exam day

- i. Make sure you bring pens that work, sharp pencils, a rubber and a sharpener. Make sure you bring your ID document and examination admission letter. Arrive at the exam venue at least an hour before the start of the exam.
- ii. Go to the toilet before entering the exam room. You don't want to waste valuable time going to the toilet during the exam.
- iii. You must know at the start of the exam which two out of the four sections of the Paper 2 Literature exam you will be answering. Use the 10 minutes' reading time to read the instructions carefully.
- iv. Break each question down to make sure you understand what is being asked. If you don't answer the question properly you won't get any marks for it. Look for the key words in the question to know how to answer it. You will find a list of question words on page xii of this study guide.
- v. Manage your time carefully. Start with the question you think is the easiest. Check how many marks are allocated to each question so you give the right amount of information in your answer.
- vi. Remain calm, even if the question seems difficult at first. It will be linked with something you have covered. If you feel stuck, move on and come back if time allows. Do try and answer as many questions as possible.
- vii. Take care to write neatly so the examiners can read your answers easily.

Overview

English First Additional Language Paper 2

Literature Exam

In the Paper 2 Literature exam, you need to answer questions from two sections.

Choose the two sections that you know best:

- Section A: Novel
- Section B: Drama
- Section C: Short stories
- Section D: Poetry

A total of 70 marks is allocated for Paper 2, which means 35 marks for each section you choose.

You will have two hours for this exam.

Here is a summary of the Paper 2 Literature exam paper:

Question number	Title of novel	Type of question	Number of marks
Section A: Novel If you choose Section A, answer ONE question. Choose the question for the book you have learnt.			
1.	Cry, the Beloved Country	Contextual	35
2.	The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Contextual	35
Section B: Drama If you choose Section B, answer ONE question. Choose the question for the play you have learnt.			
3.	Macbeth	Contextual	35
4.	My Children! My Africa!	Contextual	35
Section C: Short stories If you choose Section C, answer BOTH questions. You will not know exactly which short stories are included until the exam. TWO stories will be set. Answer the questions set on BOTH short stories.			
5.1	Short story	Contextual	17 or 18
5.2	Short story	Contextual	17 or 18
Section D: Poetry If you choose Section D, answer BOTH questions. You will not know exactly which poems are included until the exam. TWO poems will be set. Answer the questions set on BOTH poems.			
6.1	Poem	Contextual	17 or 18
6.2	Poem	Contextual	17 or 18

NB

- * You don't have to answer all the sections in Paper 2.
- * Before the Exam starts you must know which two sections you are to answer.
- * When the Exam starts, find your two chosen sections.
- * Make sure to number answers correctly-according to the numbering system used in the exam paper- for the two sections you've chosen.
- * Start each section on a new page.

What is a contextual question?

In a contextual question, you are given an extract (about 200- 225 words) from the drama. You then have to answer questions based on the extract. Some answers you can find in the extract. Other questions will test your understanding of other parts of the drama its story, characters, symbols and themes. Some questions ask for your own opinion about the drama.

What are the examiners looking for?

Examiners will assess your answers to the contextual questions based on:

- Your understanding of the literal meaning of the play. You need to identify information that is clearly given in the play.
- Your ability to reorganise information in the play. For example, you may be asked to summarise key points, or state the similarities or differences between two characters.
- Your ability to provide information that may not be clearly stated in the text, using what you already know about the play. This process is called inference. This may include explaining how a figure of speech affects your understanding of the play, explaining themes or comparing the actions of different characters.
- Your ability to make judgements about aspects of the play, and make your own opinions based on information given in the play. This process is called evaluation. For example, you may be asked if you agree with a statement, or to discuss a character's motive for doing something.
- Your ability to respond to the characters in the play and how it is written on an emotional level. This is called appreciation. For example, you may be asked how you think a certain character feels, or what you would have done if you were in his /her situation. You may be asked to discuss how the writer's style helps to describe what a character is feeling.



Question words

Here are examples of question types found in the exam.

Question type	What you need to do
Literal: Questions about information that is clearly given in the text or extract from the text	
Name characters/places/things ...	Write the specific names of characters, places, etc.
State the facts/reasons/ideas ...	Write down the information without any discussion or comments.
Give two reasons for/why ...	Write two reasons (this means the same as 'state').
Identify the character/reasons/theme ...	Write down the character's name, state the reasons.
Describe the place/character/what happens when ...	Write the main characteristics of something, for example: What does a place look/feel/smell like? Is a particular character kind/rude/aggressive ...
What does character x do when ...	Write what happened – what the character did.
Why did character x do ...	Given reasons for the character's action according to your knowledge of the plot.
Who is/did ...	Write the name of the character.
To whom does x refer ...	Write the name of the relevant character/person.
Re-organisation: Questions that need you to bring together different pieces of information in an organised way.	
Summarise the main points/ideas ...	Write the main points, without a lot of detail.
Group the common elements ...	Join the same things together.
Give an outline of	Write the main points, without a lot of detail.
Inference Questions that need you to interpret (make meaning of) the text using information that may not be clearly stated. This process involves thinking about what happened in different parts of the text; looking for clues that tell you more about a character, theme or symbol; and using your own knowledge to help you understand the text.	
Explain how this idea links with the theme x ...	Identify the links to the theme.
Compare the attitudes/actions of character x with character y ...	Point out the similarities and differences.
What do the words ... suggest/reveal about /what does this situation tell you about ...	State what you think the meaning is, based on your understanding of the text.
How does character x react when...?	
Describe how something affected ...	
State how you know that character x is ...	Write down the character's reaction/what the character did/felt.
What did character x mean by the expression ...	Explain why the character used those particular words.
Is the following statement true or false?	Write 'true' or 'false' next to the question number. You must give a reason for your answer.
Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence (multiple choice question).	A list of answers is given, labelled A–D. Write only the letter (A, B, C or D) next to the question number.
Complete the following sentence by filling in the missing words ...	Write the missing word next to the question number.
Quote a line from the extract to prove your answer.	Write the relevant line of text using the same words and punctuation you see in the extract. Put quotation marks/ inverted commas (") around the quote.

Evaluation Questions that require you to make a judgement based on your knowledge and understanding of the text and your own experience.

Discuss your view/a character's feelings/a theme ...	Consider all the information and reach a conclusion.
Do you think that ...	There is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer to these questions, but you must give a reason for your opinion based on information given in the text.
Do you agree with ...	
In your opinion, what ...	
Give your views on ...	

Appreciation Questions that ask about your emotional response to what happens, the characters and how it is written.

How would you feel if you were character x when ...	There is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer to these questions, but you must give a reason for your opinion based on information given in the text.
Discuss your response to ...	
Do you feel sorry for ...	
Discuss the use of the writer's style, diction and figurative language, dialogue ...	To answer this type of question, ask yourself: Does the style help me to feel/imagine what is happening/what a character is feeling? Why/why not? Give a reason for your answer.



WORDS TO KNOW

Vocabulary for Macbeth

Understanding Shakespeare's Language

Shakespeare wrote his plays in the English that was spoken over 400 years ago. No wonder it is sometimes difficult for us to understand! Many of the unfamiliar words in the play will be explained in the notes, or glossary, in your copy of the play.

It is also very important that you have a dictionary and that you use it to look up unfamiliar words which may not be in the glossary.

But there are some typical words, used every day by the Elizabethans in Shakespeare's time, which may not be explained. We have given you an alphabetical list of many of these words, below. You may notice that some words which we use now had different meanings in Elizabethan times. Do not worry – you will get used to many of these words, as you read the play.

First of all, some of the basic differences between Shakespeare's English and ours:

Order of Words

Sometimes the Elizabethans put their words in a different order from the order we use today.

For example:

Elizabethan: 'let us speak / Our free hearts each to other...' (Act 1, Scene 1, l 155 - 156)

Modern: 'Let us speak freely to each other' (Notice addition of 'freely' and position of 'to' and 'each', swapped around.)

Another example is:

Elizabethan: 'They are not yet come back. (Act 1, Scene 4, l.3)

Modern: They have not yet come back. (Notice addition of 'have')

And another example:

Elizabethan: 'Whence camest thou,' (Act 1, Scene 3, l.48)

Modern: 'Where did you come from?

This sounds very complicated, but do not worry; as you read the play, you will get used to it.

Verbs

A reminder: verbs are the 'doing' or 'being' words in a sentence, like sit, stand, walk, be, have.

The Elizabethans often put 'st' or 't' at the end of verbs:

Elizabethan: I hadst; **Modern:** I had

Elizabethan: Wouldst thou?

Modern: Would you?

Elizabethan: He wilt; **Modern:** He will

They also often inserted the verb 'do' in front of a verb, where we would not:

Elizabethan: "I do remember ..." (Act V, Scene 1, l.38);

Modern: I remember

Elizabethan: "Where the infectious pestilence did reign." (Act V, Scene 2, l.10);

Modern: "Where the infectious disease reigned (or was widespread)."

Thee/thou/thy/thine and you

Modern English has only one second person pronoun: **you**. But Old English had two: **thou** for second person singular and **you** for second person plural. By the 13th century, however, people began employing **you** as a singular pronoun to convey politeness or formality.

In the early-modern English of Shakespeare's time, **thou** and **you** could indicate fine distinctions of social status and interpersonal relationships.

Thou would be used to address social inferiors, social equals (lower class), express familiarity or intimacy, show scorn or contempt.

You would be used to address social equals (upper class), the public, social superiors, to express formality or neutrality, to show respect or admiration.

Thou (You): When "you" is the subject of the sentence.

Thee (You): When "you" is the object of the sentence. 'He founds thee in the stout Norwegian army.' (Act 1, Scene 3, l 96).

Thy (Your): Possessive form of you. Commonly used before a noun that begins with a consonant/consonant sound (like the article, "a"). 'The King hath The news of thy success' (Act 1, Scene 3, l 90)

Thine (Your): Possessive form of you. Commonly used before a noun that begins with vowel/vowel sound (like the article, "an"). Also used when indicating that something is "absolute and understood".

Ye (You - plural): Plural form of "you" when addressing a group of people.

Elizabethan contractions

You will notice many words such as 'tis, e'en, ne'er, is't, th', stol'n, oe'r.

These are simply Elizabethan contractions. Just as we say 'don't' instead of 'do not' and 'I'll' instead of 'I will', they too left out certain letters and used an apostrophe (') to show where the missing letter was. So, 'tis' mean 'it is', 'e'en' means 'even', 'oe'r' means 'over'. If you say these words out loud, and in context, you will get their meanings. For example: "To throw away...as 'twere a careless rifle' (Act 1, Scene 4, l.11)

And: 'Mine eyes are made the fools o'th' other senses' (Act 2, Scene 1, l.43)

Some common Elizabethan words

A

adage: old proverb
alas or **alack:** how sad
at odds: enemies with
adieu: good-bye
anoint thee: get out of here
anon: soon; shortly
attire: clothes
aye: yes
art: are

B

Battlements: the protective fortification at the top of a castle
be (I/he/she/we/you/they): am, is, are
Beelzebub: another name for the devil
bid/bade: ask/tell/asked
bliss: happiness behold: see beseech: ask, beg beget: get
befits: suits
Bellona: Roman goddess of war
blasted heath: windy plane
bosom: usually means heart
broil: confused fighting; battle; turmoil

C

corporal: flesh and blood
coz: cousin
cheerly: enthusiastically
crave: want
conjure: create, as in conjure up
commend: deliver, entrust

D

deign: condescend to give
dignity: social rank/standing
doth: does
doff: remove, put aside
divers: several

E

Earnest of success: a pledge or promise of success
ere: before
e'er: ever

F

fray: fight
fled: ran away
faith: in truth
fair: beautiful
fain: willing/wish to
fantastical: the product of the imagination
fiend: devil
foe: enemy
forsworn: have taken an oath
forth: out of
forsaken: given up
furbish'd arms: gleaming/shining weapons

G

gall: bitter /a bitter secretion of the liver
gallowglasses: soldiers who used an axe; they came from Ireland and were elite mercenaries/soldiers.
gibbet: a gallows
gruel: a weak, runny soup
gore: blood
Grimalkin: a common name for cats

H

hadst: had
harbinger: heralds; forerunner; one who goes ahead to warn or make arrangements
hath: has
heavy: sad
hence: away, go there
how now?: what's going on?
hurlyburly: a commotion or stormy upheaval and confusion

I

ill: evil
incarnadine: redden, turn red

K

Kerns: lightly-armed foot soldiers/mercenaries from Ireland
kin: relations
kinsman: relative
knave: a cheeky young man

L

list: listen or like lest: in case livery: uniform

M

Marry: by Mary mother of Jesus (a mild swear word)
master: captain
matched: compared
marry: indeed,
mine: my
misgive: worry
measure: toast; a fitting or adequate way
mutiny: fight
methinks: I think

N

Neptune: the Roman god of the sea
nay: no
ne'er: never
nought: nothing

O

oft: often

P

paddock: a toad
parley: to talk, have a conference with opposing sides in battle to discuss a way forward.
pray: ask
peace: be quiet
purge: cleanse, clean out
purged: removed
prate: chatter
perchance: perhaps

Q

quoth: say, says

R

reeking: stinking
rite: ceremony
ronyon: a creature with many scabs/ a term of abuse for a woman
rude: rough
rump-fed: grown fat on the tenderest of meat

S

Saint Colme's Inch: Colmekill, an island off the east coast of Scotland, where the kings were buried.
 set - sunset
shalt: shall sirrah: young slain: killed
sooth: true
sovereignty: kingship
strive: try
suit: request

T

toil: work
thither: there
travelling lamp: the sun
trifle: insignificant
'twas: it was
twain: two

U

unto: up to or into
unsex me: remove all my feminine qualities

V

valour's minion: the person who best serves the idea of bravery
vault: tomb
vizards: visors/masks
vexed: annoyed

W

wilt: will
withal: with or by whence: where wert: were would: wish
where to: to which or to where
whither: from where wit: intelligence
warrant: justification wanton: unrestrained
weal: community, society, state
woe: sadness

Y

ye: you (polite)
yea: yes
yew: a tree known for its slow growth and long life and often grown in graveyards, therefore associated with death.
yonder (or yond): over there



Overview

1

Introduction

Macbeth was written by William Shakespeare. He was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in England.

His plays were written about 400 years ago, but they are still popular today. They have been performed in hundreds of countries and translated into nearly every language. By the time he died in 1610, he had written about 38 plays and over 150 poems.



Hey, Shakespeare! You wrote Macbeth hundreds of years ago! What does it have to do with my life?

Well, for a start, it's about power and that's still what drives people to act deviously in the 21st century.



1. Background

Four hundred years ago the world was very different from today. For example, in 1564 in South Africa, many African groups had only recently moved southwards to join the San and Khoi-Khoi in the area that was to become South Africa. London, where Shakespeare mostly lived and worked, was also very different from the city it is today. Knowing what life was like in Shakespeare's time helps us to understand his plays.

For most of Shakespeare's life, Elizabeth I was Queen of England. During the Elizabethan times, English explorers sailed to countries that they had not known about before, bringing back new types of fruit, vegetables, spices and other resources. During this time, London was the fastest growing city in the world. People from rural areas in England as well as from other countries went to London to find work. Shakespeare met different types of people from many places and he wrote about them in his plays.

Elizabethan society

In Shakespeare's time, England had a very unequal society. Some people were very rich, but most were poor, although a middle class was developing. The powerful people were wealthy landowners. Mostly these were the nobles, with titles like 'Lord' and 'Lady'. They inherited their wealth and high position in society. There was no democracy, like we have today, and ordinary people could not vote for their rulers.

Women did not have equal rights to men. They could not inherit titles from their fathers, and there were restrictions about women inheriting money. Only women from very wealthy families were educated. Women were usually expected to be domestic servants or housewives. Unlike many poor people, rich men were usually educated and could read and write.

Most people were Christians and attended church regularly. The Church played an important part in people's lives. People did not live as long then as they do today – a person was old at forty. Terrible diseases were common, like the plague, which was spread by rats and killed thousands of people. Doctors did not have the skills or knowledge to cure many diseases.

Shakespeare's London sounds like cities in South Africa today-people from around the world lived there.



Languages change all the time. We use many words today that Shakespeare had never heard of. Like cell phone, internet or Bling.



Shakespeare's English

Four hundred years ago the English language was very different from what it is today. For example, a person would refer to a good friend or child as “thee” rather than “you”, as we do today.

In Shakespeare's time, the English language was mostly spoken, not written down. Most books were written in Latin. There were no English dictionaries and no one studied English in schools. By writing his popular plays in English, Shakespeare helped to develop the language.

Shakespeare's theatre

In Shakespeare's time, people went to the theatre like people today go to the movies or a soccer match. It was popular entertainment for both poor and rich people. Even Queen Elizabeth I went to see Shakespeare's plays. The plays were performed in different theatres around London. A famous theatre was the Globe Theatre. It could seat 3000 people.

The audience did not watch quietly, they showed how they felt about the play. They cheered and clapped at what they liked, and shouted and threw rotten vegetables if they didn't like it! Plays were also used to comment on issues in society.

People enjoyed listening to clever, funny language in the theatre. Often this language was poetic and sometimes it was sexual, which would have delighted, not shocked, the audience. Just as people today enjoy comedy shows and television soaps, so would people in Shakespeare's time have loved the jokes and drama in his plays.



2. How the play is told.

2.1 Setting

The play is set in Scotland in the 11th century. Most of the scenes take place in Scotland. Some scenes are outdoors, e.g. Act 1, Scene 1 takes place on the battlefield, and Act 1, Scene 3 on the heath (open uncultivated land). Only one scene is set in England, e.g. Act 4 Scene 3 is set in the English court.

2.2 Characters

Types of characters in literature

In literature we find major and minor characters. They could be further broken down into different types of characters. Regardless of the intensity or the length of their role, they have a place in the story or play. They help the flow of a story go logically and smoothly towards the end. Please note that a character may fit into one or more types.

The main character (Protagonist)

Every play has this type of character and evolves around it. It is the main character or the hero and is also called the protagonist. It appears in the story from the start to end. It is the one who fights with the situations and antagonist characters. In this play, the protagonist is Macbeth, as the play mainly involves him – his actions and the decisions he makes.

Character opposing the main character (Antagonist)

In fiction, when there is a protagonist or a main character who plays a role of a hero who takes the stand for the good and truth, the antagonist plays against this heroic character and tries to stop him by posing threats to his and others' lives. Note that an antagonist doesn't always need to be a person or a group of people working to ensure the misery of the protagonist. It can also be a difficult situation or accidental event that works against the main and positive character. In this play, Macbeth can be seen as his own antagonist as he acts against his own best interest. Many of the other characters like Banquo, Macduff and the other nobles (Thanes) can also be seen as antagonists to Macbeth.

Static or flat character

Flat characters are not the eye-catching part of the story, but still play an important role in the flow and help the main character in his or her intention. We could also refer to the other characters in the play as minor characters – they stand in opposition to the protagonist. One of the roles of the minor characters is to help create tension or conflict in the plot and to keep the action of the play going. Examples of minor characters in the play are Banquo, Macduff, the Doctor, The Nurse, The Porter and the Thanes.

Changing or dynamic character

Opposite to the flat character, a dynamic character plays a role that develops and changes during the events in the story. Lady Macbeth changes from a strong character to somebody who is weak and she eventually commits suicide.

Round character

This is the character which contributes the most in making the story interesting and keeps the reader confused about the person's actual nature. This type of character acts subtly and changes in the face of conflict. This character develops itself and rather becomes complex as the story progresses as he or she doesn't stick to the limited qualities, for example Lady Macbeth.

Evil character or villain

An evil character can have similar characteristics to those of an antagonist, but he or she acts actively with more intensity to harm the protagonist or the main character and others. In this case the Witches, Macbeth as well as Lady Macbeth fit the description of an evil character.

Classes of characters

There are also different classes of characters, as Shakespeare placed his play in a social setting that the Elizabethan public would recognise.

The nobility

The nobility were rich people whose wealth and position in society was inherited. They had political power and owned most of the land. The nobles in the play include Macbeth, The Thane of Glamis, Lady Macbeth, Macduff and other Thanes, Siward, the Earl of Northumberland.



The commoners

People who had not inherited title or wealth were called commoners. Most of them had little chance of improving their social status and could not read or write. Many worked as servants for a noble family. The porter and the noblewoman would be known as commoners. The servant characters are often used to provide humour and to comment on things the other characters are doing.

Army

Soldiers play an important role in the play as the play revolves around battles waged. The play opens and closes with scenes set on the battlefield. Macbeth is the Thane of Glamis and cousin to King Duncan of Scotland. Macbeth has fought bravely and defeated the traitor, the Thane of Cawdor. The Thane of Cawdor had joined forces with the King of Norway to try and defeat King Duncan. Macbeth's friend, Banquo, also fought bravely in this battle. The king gives Macbeth the title of Thane of Cawdor as a reward for his bravery in the battle. Another Thane of Scotland, Macduff, has also gone to England to get help. The English king, King Edward, is raising an army to rescue Scotland from Macbeth's reign of terror. The army led by Malcolm approaches Birnam Wood near Dunsinane Hill. Malcolm's army is victorious.

Major and Minor characters in Macbeth

Major characters

1. MACBETH

Actions

1. Fights bravely for King Duncan in a battle against Macdonwald (a Scottish traitor), the Thane of Cawdor and the King of Norway.
2. Becomes the new Thane of Cawdor.
3. Kills King Duncan, then he arranges the killing of Banquo and Macduff's family.
4. Goes into battle against an army put together by Macduff and Malcolm.
5. Killed by Macduff

Character traits

1. He is a very courageous warrior.
2. He is ambitious.
3. He lusts for power and wealth; therefore, he wants to be the King of Scotland.
4. He is weak because he is unable to kill Duncan without the influence and pressure of his wife.
5. He is jealous of Banquo.
6. He is impatient because he acts instead of waiting for the prophecy to come true.
7. He has a moral conscience at the beginning of the play. He feels guilty about having the blood of the king on his hands.
8. He is self-reflective – throughout the play, he thinks about what he has done and what is happening to him.

2. LADY MACBETH



Actions

1. Persuades Macbeth to kill Duncan.
2. Comes up with the plan to kill Duncan and frame the guards.
3. Mocks Macbeth for being weak and indecisive.
4. Returns the daggers to the sleeping guards and smears Duncan's blood on them to frame them for Duncan's murder.
5. Covers for Macbeth when he talks to Banquo's ghost banquet.
6. Commits suicide.

Character traits

1. She is a cruel woman with no moral conscience – Macbeth describes her as 'fiend-like' (meaning evil devil-like).
A 'fiend' is a devil /demon/evil spirit
2. She is ambitious.
3. She lusts for power and wealth therefore she wants to be Queen of Scotland.
4. She is impatient. She cannot wait to become queen.
5. She is scheming and conniving. When she hears the King is coming to visit for only one night, she plans his murder.
6. She is very clever. She comes up with the plan to kill Duncan while he is in their castle and then frames the guards.
7. She is very persuasive.
8. Lady Macbeth is quite unlike other women of her time who were expected to be soft, gentle and ladylike; she goes to the scene of a brutal murder, and she is also able to smear the king's blood on his guards to make them appear guilty of the murder.

3. BANQUO

Actions

1. Receives the witches' prophecy for his lineage (who will be the future kings of Scotland) but does not take any action – he serves as a foil to Macbeth.
2. Warns Macbeth not to take the witches seriously as he may come to harm.
3. Encourages his son Fleance to flee when they are attacked by Macbeth's hired murderers.
4. Appears as a ghost at Macbeth's banquet.

Character traits

1. Banquo is loyal to king and country.
2. He is brave on the battlefield where he fights alongside Macbeth.
3. He is not gullible and very mature in his outlook.
4. He warns Macbeth about agents of evil such as the witches.
5. He is very patient.
6. Unlike Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, he does not take any action, but is prepared to wait to see if the witches' prophecy for his family will come true.

4. MACDUFF

Actions

1. Discovers the body of slain (killed) King Duncan.
2. Leaves his wife and young children to go to England.
3. Is devastated when he hears of the murder of his family, and decides to be the one to kill Macbeth.
4. Persuades Malcolm to get an army and return to Scotland so they can overthrow Macbeth.
5. Kills Macbeth.



Character traits

1. Macduff is fiercely loyal to Scotland.
2. He is a true patriot who cannot bear to see the misery and poverty in his country during Macbeth's reign.
3. He is very brave.
4. Macduff is willing to make personal sacrifices for the benefit of his people. Although the times are dangerous, Macduff leaves his family to go to England.
5. He puts his country before his family.
6. He believes in justice. He persuades Malcolm to return to Scotland to defeat Macbeth and take the throne.

5. MALCOLM

Actions

1. Flees to England after Duncan's death.
2. Is persuaded by Macduff to return to Scotland with an army.
3. Commands soldiers to chop off a branch from the trees in Birnam Wood and carry it in front of them to conceal their numbers so Macbeth will be fooled – this actually makes the apparitions' prophecy about Birnam Wood coming to Dunsinane come true.
4. Becomes the new King of Scotland after Macbeth's death.

Character traits

1. Malcolm is very patient. He is content to remain in England, even though he is the rightful King of Scotland.
2. He is very mature in his thinking.
3. He is careful about whom he trusts. When Macduff finds him in England, Malcolm takes a while before deciding to believe Macduff is really on his side.
4. He is brave and intelligent on the battlefield. In the final battle, it is Malcolm who comes up with plan that the soldiers must carry tree branches above their heads. This tactic conceals the exact size of his army as they approach Macbeth in Dunsinane.
5. Malcolm is loyal to his country. As King, he will restore order and peace in Scotland.

MINOR CHARACTERS

1. THE THREE WITCHES

1. The witches meet in the opening scene to discuss their fate for Macbeth.
2. They meet Macbeth and Banquo. They tell Macbeth he will be Thane of Cawdor and then King of Scotland. They tell Banquo he will not be king, but his sons will be king.
3. They meet with Hecate who is angry as to why she was not part of the plan to win Macbeth's soul.
4. They meet with Macbeth again to show him the three apparitions which prophesise his future.
5. The witches are manipulative and cunning. They use Macbeth's greed for power against him.
6. They have supernatural powers and knowledge of future events and they also clearly enjoy using those powers to cause havoc and mayhem among mankind.

2. KING DUNCAN

1. He is the King of Scotland
2. He is father to Malcolm and Donalbain
3. He is generous; when anybody did something good he awarded them.
4. He is killed by Macbeth

3. FLEANCE

1. He is Banquo's son
2. He is briefly introduced in the play, but his existence haunts Macbeth since through his line the succession to the throne has been prophesied.
3. He has an affectionate relationship with his father.
4. His character emphasises the rationality of Banquo compared to Macbeth.
5. In his dying moments, Banquo cares only for his safety of his son.

4. OTHER THANES

1. They are examples of trusting, uncomplicated, on-political majority of the people.
2. They are loyal: they support Macbeth after his ascent to the throne as he appears to be the legitimate king.
3. They defect when they are unable to cope with Macbeth's cruelty and tyranny.
4. Lennox reports on the unnatural events that take place after Duncan's murder, the state of Scotland under Macbeth's tyranny and prepares the audience for Malcolm's invasion with English allies.
5. Ross is often the messenger: he informs Macbeth of his promotion to Thane of Cawdor and warns Lady Macduff to flee before she is murdered.
6. Angus, Lennox, Menteith and Caithness joins the English army to fight Macbeth.

5. LADY MACDUFF

1. She is introduced only once in the play.
2. She is a loving wife and mother.
3. She is loyal to her husband.
4. She is upset about Macduff's decision to abandon his family in search of Malcolm as she feels he has left his family vulnerable to Macbeth's tyranny.
5. She presents a contrasting character to that of Lady Macbeth who also scolded her husband for being a coward, but in Lady Macduff's case it is to emphasise that she feels her husband put Scotland before his family.

6. PORTER

1. In Shakespeare's plays there often was a humorous scene involving a porter at the gate of hell.
2. In Macbeth the Porter guards the gate of Macbeth's castle.
3. The audience would realise that he represents the porter at the gate of hell and realise the symbolism of Inverness being the hell and Macbeth being the devil /devilish or evil.
4. The Porter provides comic relief after the heavy drama of the previous scenes (the killing of Duncan).
5. He is drunk and makes sexual jokes.
6. His comments cleverly mimic the theme of the play appearance versus reality.

CHARACTERISATION/CHARACTER ANALYSIS

NOTE: When asked to respond to a question on characterisation, it is important to note that you should not list physical attributes but refer to the actions, thoughts and words of a character.

- A character can be analysed by looking at an action or incident and how it affected him/her or how he/she reacted to it.
- What action did the character take when confronted with a certain situation?
- Is there an incident in the character's past that has shaped him/her as a character and affected the way he/she looks at their life? The action or incident determines the way the character develops as the story goes on.
- When analysing the reactions of others you are looking closely at how other characters in the story react to or treat the character that you are characterizing.
- Reactions include verbal responses and physical or emotional treatment.
- The reactions of other characters can tell you if the character you are analysing is liked or disliked, popular, honest, trust-worthy etc....
- Dialogue is the way in which a character talks and includes the choice of words and syntax of characters. It also includes the tone and diction of the character when he/she speaks.
- Is the character serious? Sarcastic? Shy? Obnoxious? Ignorant? All these qualities can be conveyed through the characters' dialogue.

THE PLOT

ACT 1

We are introduced to the theme and the plot is revealed.

The play opens with a storm in a wasteland.
Three Witches are discussing when they shall meet again.
They mention Macbeth's name and a battle.

SCENE 1

While King Duncan waits for news of the battles, a wounded soldier arrives and describes Macbeth's bravery in defeating the traitor, Macdonwald.
He continues to elaborate on Macbeth and Banquo's bravery in fighting the king of Norway who was assisting another traitor, the Thane of Cawdor.
The Thane of Ross arrives and announces Macbeth and Banquo's victory.
Duncan orders the Thane of Cawdor's death and declares that he will reward Macbeth with his title .

SCENE 2

The Witches meet again, discussing all the evil deeds that kept them busy.
Macbeth and Banquo enter and Banquo remarks that the Witches seem not to belong on earth after noticing them first.
After prodding them to speak, the Witches call Macbeth by three titles: Glamis, Cawdor and King. They declare that Banquo will never be king himself but that his heirs will be kings.

SCENE 3

After the Witches depart, Ross and Angus arrive and they inform Macbeth that King Duncan has given him the title of Thane of Cawdor. In his first soliloquy he explains that if he already has two of the titles promised, he might have to act to make the third happen quickly. These thoughts scare him. Macbeth and Banquo agree to discuss their encounter with the Witches later.
The scene takes place in a room in the King's palace at Forres. Malcolm, Duncan's son, reports to him that the Thane of Cawdor has been executed and he died repentant. Duncan remarks that appearances can often be deceptive.
Macbeth arrives and Duncan thanks him for his bravery in the battle. Macbeth protests that as a loyal Thane he was merely doing his duty.

SCENE 4

Duncan announces that his son Malcolm will be his heir and Prince of Cumberland. Macbeth realizes that this is going to be an obstacle to his own ambitions and expresses his deep seated ambition that causes evil thoughts.
The setting is a room in Macbeth's castle at Inverness.
Lady Macbeth reads Macbeth's letter in which he tells her of his meeting with the witches and their prophecies. Lady Macbeth is more determined than Macbeth to realise his ambition. She therefore wants him to return so that she can pressurize him into taking action. She realizes she will have to sacrifice her femininity in order for them to realise their ambition. A messenger arrives who informs her that King Duncan will be visiting them later that evening. Lady Macbeth is determined he will die. When Macbeth arrives they discuss Duncan's visit and Lady Macbeth expresses her determination that he will not leave again.

SCENE 5

King Duncan and his followers arrive at the castle and he and Banquo discuss the beauty and peaceful atmosphere of the place. Lady Macbeth welcomes them and outlines the reasons why they should look after him well. Duncan expresses his high regard for Macbeth. The irony of this scene is the way Duncan and Banquo see the castle as a place of peace while inside Macbeth is planning for the murder.

SCENE 6

The feast for Macbeth and his nobles take place. Macbeth leaves the table and in a soliloquy he expresses his concern about their plans. He is worried about the possible consequences. He informs Lady Macbeth that they should not proceed but Lady Macbeth scolds him and convinces him by playing on his ego to carry out the murder. She outlines the details of the plan that will remove the earthly consequences of the murder and Macbeth admires her strength.

SCENE 7

ACT 2	
The events leading up to the murder, the murder and the events immediately after the murder described.	
The play opens with a storm in a wasteland. Three Witches are discussing when they shall meet again. They mention Macbeth's name and a battle.	SCENE 1
While King Duncan waits for news of the battles, a wounded soldier arrives and describes Macbeth's bravery in defeating the traitor, Macdonwald. He continues to elaborate on Macbeth and Banquo's bravery in fighting the king of Norway who was assisting another traitor, the Thane of Cawdor. The Thane of Ross arrives and announces Macbeth and Banquo's victory. Duncan orders the Thane of Cawdor's death and declares that he will reward Macbeth with his title .	SCENE 2
The porter is woken from his drunken sleep to open the gate for Macduff and Lennox. Macduff explains he has to awaken the King and they are taken to Duncan's room by Macbeth. Lennox describes the unnatural events of the previous evening. Macduff discovers the murdered king and informs the others. Lady Macbeth comes in. Malcolm and Donalbain learn of their father's death. When Lady Macbeth hears that Macbeth has killed the attendants in a rage of fury because of their treason, she faints. The thanes agree to get dressed and meet in the castle hall. Malcolm and Donalbain decide to flee to England and Ireland.	SCENE 3
Ross and an old man are discussing the unnatural events of the previous night. It seems as if nature has mirrored the events in the castle. Macduff arrives and informs them that the suspicion for the murder is on Malcolm and Donalbain since they have fled the country. Macbeth has been chosen to be the next king and his coronation has been scheduled for later in the day at Scone. Macduff refuses to attend the function.	SCENE 4



ACT 3

The climax of the play is when Banquo is killed, and the rest of the act highlights Macbeth's desperate attempts to stay in the position of power.

Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth's actions but he remembers the Witches' prophecies about the future of his own heirs. Macbeth announces that he is hosting a feast that night and Banquo has been invited as guest of honour. Banquo informs Macbeth that he intends to go riding with his son Fleance and they will only be back after nightfall. Macbeth meets with the two men he has contracted to kill Banquo and Fleance. He explains that Banquo is responsible for all the misfortune.

SCENE 1

Neither Macbeth nor Lady Macbeth experiences the expected feeling of satisfaction at being King and Queen. In fact they both have a death-wish. Macbeth discusses his fear of Banquo and Lady Macbeth assures him that Banquo cannot live forever, her intent is not clear. Macbeth misleads his wife by asking her to be exceptionally friendly towards Banquo, while he knows that he will be dead by then.

SCENE 2

The sun has just set. The two murderers have been joined by a third man and they are waiting in the park to kill Banquo and Fleance who are approaching on horseback. They are attacked and even though Banquo is killed, he urges his son to flee before he dies. Fleance manages to escape.

SCENE 3

The dinner table has been set in the castle hall. One of the murderers appears at the side door while Macbeth is welcoming the guests. He informs Macbeth of Banquo's death and Fleance's escape. Macbeth proceeds to reproach Banquo for not attending the feast, even though he knows he is dead. At this point Banquo's ghost appears and sits in Macbeth's chair at the table. The guests are concerned as they are unable to see the ghost, yet Macbeth proceeds to address it. Lady Macbeth tries to justify his behaviour and says he is having a fit. The ghost disappears but as soon as Macbeth proposes a toast to Banquo it re-appears. Once Macbeth and his wife is alone, Macbeth shares his displeasure regarding Macduff's absence with his wife and informs her of his decision to pay the Witches another visit.

SCENE 4

Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft, reprimands the other three Witches for not consulting her and for dealing with Macbeth who has no real interest in their 'art'. She tells them to meet her in the morning when Macbeth will consult them regarding his future- they plan to give him a false sense of security so that he will cause his own downfall.

SCENE 5

Lennox discusses his suspicions regarding all the murders with a lord. He further shares information on how unpopular Macduff has become with Macbeth since his refusal to attend the dinner and to return even after Macbeth summoned him. The lord informs Lennox that Malcolm, Duncan's son and Macduff have met at the castle of the English King where they intend to request the King's assistance in providing them with an army to fight against Macbeth.

SCENE 6

ACT 4	
Part of the falling action	
<p>The three Witches are preparing their magic potion consisting of numerous strange ingredients when Macbeth arrives at their in a dark cave. They call up a number of apparitions to reveal the future to Macbeth. The first Apparition is a decapitated armed head to warn Macbeth against Macduff. The second apparition is of a bloodstained child who says Macbeth need fear 'none of woman borne'. The third is of a child who carries a branch in his hand and tells Macbeth that he will not be defeated until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane. Macbeth is not satisfied; he wants to know whether his or Banquo's offspring would be kings of Scotland in future. Eight Apparitions, all kings, appear followed by Banquo's ghost. They are all future kings of Scotland and Banquo's heirs. After the disappearance of the Witches, Macbeth calls to Lennox who has been waiting a distance away from the cave. He tells Macbeth that Macduff has fled to England. Macbeth decides to in future act immediately on his feelings and decides to have Macduff's entire family killed. This is a spiteful, malicious act, he cannot get to Macduff as he is still in England.</p>	SCENE 1
<p>Ross tries to persuade Lady Macduff that her husband's flight from Scotland to England was taken in good faith. She is convinced that Macduff did not act in the best interest of his family. Ross leaves her in the company of her son. A messenger arrives to warn them that they are in danger, but before she can make any arrangements, the murderers arrive and kill everyone they found inside the castle.</p>	SCENE 2
<p>Macduff has found Malcolm at the palace of Edward the Confessor, king of England. He tries to persuade Malcolm to return to Scotland with an army to overthrow Macbeth. Malcolm is suspicious and suspects that Macbeth might have sent Macduff to trick him. To test Macduff, Malcolm pretends that, if he were to become king of Scotland, he would even be a worse tyrant than Macbeth. Malcolm is finally convinced of Malcolm's loyalty because Macduff expresses his horror that Scotland will be subjected to worse atrocities. Ross arrives with the news that Macduff's family have all been murdered. Macduff then vows that he will not rest until Macbeth has been killed.</p>	SCENE 3

ACT 5

The demise of Macbeth is described with the setting mostly being on the battlefield. Macbeth is defeated and Macduff is named the rightful successor.

Macbeth and his wife are now living in the castle at Dunsinane. A doctor and a waiting woman are discussing the strange behaviour of Lady Macbeth. While they are talking Lady Macbeth appears, asleep but walking in her sleep. As she walks she reveals that she was involved in Duncan's murder. She relives the murders of Banquo and Macduff's family, even though she had nothing to do with that. It proves her guilt and remorse. Once she has gone, the doctor remarks that her sickness is of the mind, not the body. He is greatly disturbed by what he has heard.

SCENE 1

A group of Scottish nobles loyal to Malcolm meet to prepare for the final battle against Macbeth. They arrange to meet the English army near Birnam Wood. We learn that Macbeth is at his castle at Dunsinane where he is also getting ready to fight.

SCENE 3

Macbeth prepares to defend the castle at Dunsinane against the rebel army. He repeats the prophecies to convince himself he will be victorious. He realises that he faces only adversities. He wants the Doctor to assist Lady Macbeth in getting rid of whatever is troubling her, but the Doctor tells him that he cannot cure Lady Macbeth because her illness is of the mind, not the body.

SCENE 4

The rebel forces have now reached Birnam Wood where Malcolm orders each man to cut down a branch and carry it in front of him. This camouflage will be used to conceal the number of soldiers in the army. We learn that many soldiers rebelled against Macbeth and he is left only with supporters he commanded to stay.

SCENE 5

Macbeth still believes he will be victorious as he trusts the prophecies of The Witches. When he hears of his wife's death he states that there is no time to mourn her. A messenger arrives and informs Macbeth that Birnam Wood seems to be moving towards Dunsinane. Macbeth then prepares to leave his castle and fight.

SCENE 6

Malcolm orders the soldiers to drop the branches and prepare for battle. Macbeth challenges any man to fight against him as he still believes he cannot be beaten by any ordinary man. He meets young Siward on the battlefield and kills him. He then moves on, looking for more victims. Macduff is desperately looking for Macbeth. Malcolm and old Siward reveal that the castle has been taken over as many of Macbeth's soldiers have changed sides.

SCENE 7

When Macduff finds Macbeth, they fight. Macduff informs Macbeth that he was born by Caesarian section and therefore was not born naturally from his mother as he was cut from her womb while she was dying. Macduff then proceeds to kill Macbeth. Examples of values he considers good are loyalty, generosity, honesty and courage.

SCENE 8

Inside the castle, Malcolm and his allies have achieved victory with few losses. Young Siward is dead, but he died bravely. Macduff joins them carrying Macbeth's head. Malcolm makes his thanes earls and invites them all to Scone to see him crowned.

SCENE 9

The play in one page

Act 1, Scene 1: An open space
 Act 1, Scene 2: An army camp near Forres
 Act 1, Scene 3: An open space
 Act 1, Scene 4: The palace at Forres
 Act 1, Scene 5: Macbeth's castle at Inverness
 Act 1, Scene 6 : At the entrance to Macbeth's castle
 Act 1, Scene 7: Macbeth's castle

Act 2, Scene 1: Court of Macbeth's castle at Inverness
 Act 2, Scene 2: A room in Macbeth's castle
 Act 2, Scene 3: In the gateway of Macbeth's castle
 Act 2, Scene 4: Outside the castle

Act 3, Scene 1: The castle at Forres
 Act 3, Scene 2: A room in the castle at Forres
 Act 3, Scene 3: A wood near the palace of Forres
 Act 3, Scene 4: A hall at the Palace at Forres
 Act 3, Scene 5: An open space
 Act 3, Scene 6: The palace at Forres

Act 4, Scene 1: A dark cave
 Act 4, Scene 2: Macduff's castle at Fife
 Act 4, Scene 3: Outside King Edward of England's palace in London

Act 5, Scene 1: A room in Macbeth's castle at Dunsinane
 Act 5, Scene 2: On the road to Birnam Wood near Dunsinane
 Act 5, Scene 3: A room in Macbeth's castle at Dunsinane
 Act 5, Scene 4: Beside a wood
 Act 5, Scene 5: In Dunsinane castle
 Act 5, Scene 6: Outside Dunsinane castle
 Act 5, Scene 7: Outside Dunsinane castle
 Act 5, Scene 8: Another part of the battlefield
 Act 5, Scene 9: Inside the castle

1.2 Themes

A theme is a message that runs through a play or story. In Macbeth, Shakespeare uses a number of themes to tell his story of the tragic hero.

Ambition vs moral conscience

- Macbeth and Lady Macbeth allow their blind ambition to get the better of them. They want to be King and Queen of Scotland but have to commit murder to gain these positions.
- Even though Macbeth has been rewarded for his bravery on the battlefield by King Duncan, he allows his blind ambition to overpower his moral conscience as he kills the King while he is visiting.
- In Act 1 Scene 7, Macbeth argues with Lady Macbeth about why he should not kill the king: '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' (Act 1, Scene 7 / Lines 12–16) But later, after Lady Macbeth questions his masculinity, Macbeth agrees to kill Duncan.
- In the end, he allows his ambition to become king to triumph.

Good vs evil

- In 'Macbeth', we have Duncan, Macduff, Banquo and Malcolm representing good.
 - Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and the three witches represent evil because of their murderous intent.
 - Macbeth and his wife are successful in their plan to take over the throne of Scotland by killing King Duncan.
 - Macbeth has Banquo killed.
 - Instead of maintaining order and peace in the kingdom, Macbeth becomes a hated tyrant. Under Macbeth's rule the people suffer hardship, fear and poverty.
- Macduff tells Malcolm about Macbeth's reign of terror in Act 4 Scene 3: 'each new morn, / New widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows / Strike Heaven on the face, that it resounds / As if it felt with Scotland' (Act 4, Scene 3, Lines 4–7). Until Macbeth is overthrown, it seems that evil will win.
- It is Macduff who begins the fight against the evil Macbeth and his wife. He goes to England to get Malcolm and an army to defeat Macbeth. When we hear that Lady Macbeth has died, we feel little sympathy as she was so evil. Similarly, there is a feeling of satisfaction (and no sympathy).
 - This is because the forces of good finally defeat the forces of evil when Macbeth is killed and Malcolm, the rightful heir to the throne, is hailed as the new king.

Fate vs free will

- The witches and the apparitions represent fate.
- Macbeth is human. He therefore represents free will. In other words, after hearing the different prophecies, he can decide what he wants to do. He can also decide whether he wants to do anything at all. He has control over his own actions.
- Macbeth makes the choice to kill Duncan and Banquo. He also decides to kill Duncan's guards. He could have framed them for the murder without killing them. Instead he chooses to kill the guards. He can then pretend he was angry on seeing Duncan lying dead.
- Banquo is in contrast with Macbeth as he also hears a prophecy about the future of his family from the Witches. But he chooses to do nothing about it.
- The Witches' prophecies can be regarded as fate, and then it follows that Macbeth has no choice at all in his actions. It is fate that makes him behave the way he does.
- It can be argued that Macbeth causes the prophecies to come true by making certain choices, such as killing the King and the others.

Appearance vs reality

- In 'Macbeth', deliberate deception leads to the discrepancy (difference) between appearance and reality.
- This deliberate deception is often referred to as the theme of equivocation meaning the use of words in one sense while meaning the opposite in order to deliberately mislead or confuse.
- When Lady Macbeth reads the letter Macbeth has written to her, she has dark, evil thoughts on how to get rid of the king. She puts on the mask of goodness, keeping Macbeth calm. She tells her husband how to behave in a certain way when the king arrives, so that her evil plan can go into action.
- She also pretends to be kind and polite on greeting the king.
- However, we know that she is not actually kind – she has very evil plans.
- When Macbeth returns home, Lady Macbeth advises her husband to 'look like the innocent flower/But be the serpent under it' (Act 1, Scene 5, line 63-64) in order to hide their evil plans.
- At the dinner Macbeth and Lady Macbeth host, at which they must keep

Ambition is a strong desire to do or achieve something.

Your **conscience** is the inner feeling or voice that tells you what is right and what is wrong.

Morality has to do with choosing between right and wrong.

Conflict between good and evil is found in all of Shakespeare's plays. Examples of values he considers good are, loyalty, generosity, honesty, courage. Evil is represented amongst others by treachery, dishonesty, cowardice and lack of moral discipline.

If a person, event, or achievement **is hailed** as important or successful, they are praised publicly.

When you believe in fate, you believe that events develop in a way that is beyond a person's control; you believe the sequence of events is determined by some kind of supernatural power.

Free will, on the other hand, refers to the ability to act as one sees fit in a particular situation, without the influence of fate. In other words, a person can choose how he or she wants to act.

calm and be pleasant with their guests, Macbeth pretends to be enjoying the banquet in his honour but inwardly, he knows that he has already put the next step of his plan into action: the murder of Banquo. When Banquo's ghost appears, Lady Macbeth has to cover up her husband's reaction.

- Macbeth finally realises that the prophecies of the apparitions have indeed come true. What appeared to be impossible has become reality. Macbeth sees Birnam Wood moving towards him when Malcolm instructs the soldiers each to 'hew him down a bough' (Act 5, Scene 5, line 4-5) to hide the true numbers of the approaching army from Macbeth.
- Another prophecy that Macbeth did not think possible comes true when Macbeth realises that Macduff was not born naturally. He was 'from his mother's womb/Untimely ripped' (Act 5, Scene 8, lines 16 -17). Therefore, the prophecy that Macbeth could not be harmed by a person not 'of woman born' (Act 4, Scene 1, line 80) and repeated by Macbeth (Act 5, Scene 3 line 6-7) comes true.

Guilt and its consequences

- Symbols of Macbeth's guilt are his hallucinations about the dagger, his fixation on blood and his inability to sleep.
- The dagger: Macbeth wonders of the sights and sounds are supernatural visions or figments of his imagination (Act 2, Scene 1, lines 32- 38).
- Blood: Macbeth and Lady Macbeth worry that they will never get rid of the stains of blood from their hands (Act 2, Scene 2, line 20).
- Sleep: When he murders Duncan, Macbeth thinks he hears a voice say 'Macbeth does murder sleep' (Act 2, Scene 2, line 36). Sleep symbolizes innocence and peace of mind. By killing Duncan, Macbeth chases away peaceful sleep; Lady Macbeth begins to sleepwalk and Macbeth is haunted by nightmares.
- Macbeth's drive for power overtakes his guilt and he goes on a murderous spree; even killing women and children.
- At first Lady Macbeth appears to cope well with the murders and she does not display any feelings of guilt. However, she hesitates to kill Duncan while he is sleeping, because he resembles her father (Act 2, Scene 2, lines 12-13). She is unable to cope with her remorse and guilt after she gets wind of Macbeth's plans to kill all his enemies. She goes mad (Act 5, Scene 3, lines 37-38) and commits suicide because she could not cope with her feelings of guilt anymore. (Act 5, Scene 5, line 16).

Kingship vs tyranny

- This theme explores the idea of leadership. A good leader uses his power for the good of his country and his people rather than for himself only.
- A tyrant is selfish and is corrupted by absolute power.
- Duncan is regarded as a good king by Macbeth in Act 1, Scene 4 who is worthy of 'the service and loyalty' of his thanes and who has '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;' (Act 1, Scene 7, line 16 – 20).
- Macbeth is described as a tyrant by Lennox in Act 3, Scene 6.
- In Act 4, Scene 3, while Macduff is establishing if he can trust Macduff, he lists a number of Macbeth's evil deeds and the effect on the country.
- Menteith refers to him as a 'tyrant' (Act 5, Scene 2, line 11) and the Thanes carry on describing the consequences of Macbeth's tyrannical behaviour in the rest of the scene.

Appearance is how you see something or what something looks like. Appearances are often deceiving and misleading because how something appears to be is not always how it is in reality.

Reality is how something actually exists in real life as opposed to an imaginary idea of it.



Gender issues

- In the Elizabethan age, men were considered to be superior to women. Shakespeare questions what it means to be 'manly'.
- Lady Macbeth appears to be less emotional when they plan to kill Duncan.
- In Act 4, Scene 3, when Malcolm wants to grieve with Macduff for the family he has lost, Macduff responds to say they should rather 'Hold fast the mortal sword, and like good men' protect their fallen birthright.
- Siward is consoled when he is told in Act 5, Scene 9, his son died like a man because his wounds were in front, implying he did not run away.

Duncan has exercised his power so gently, and has been so faultless in his kingship, that his goodness and integrity will plead like Angels at God's Throne of Judgement, their loud voices calling for the damnation of his murderer.

Reversal of values

- This theme is closely linked to the theme of good vs evil.
- In Act 1, Scene 1, the witches chant 'Fair is foul and foul is fair' and this alerts us to the theme.
- In the beginning of the play the forces of good, represented by Duncan, are overthrown by the forces of evil, represented by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.
- The balance is gradually restored after Macduff's escape to England, as good eventually triumphs over evil.
- Throughout the play good tries to reassert itself before its final triumph. For example, Lady Macbeth prays to the forces of evil to help her destroy all that is soft and feminine in her so she can be filled 'from the crown to the toe, top full of direst cruelty' (Act 1, Scene 5, line 60). The price she has to pay for denying all that is good within her is madness and suicide.
- As a result of the reversal of values, what appears to be good or innocent to some of the characters in the play is often evil and corrupt. This leads to a great deal of confusion among the characters. The moral order has been turned upside down and nothing is what it seems to be.
- A result of the reversal of values is the overthrow of the natural order. Unnatural events like murder and witchcraft are always accompanied by unnatural events in nature. After Duncan's murder, Lennox and Macduff report that the 'night has been unruly' (Act 2, Scene 3, line 8) and in Act 2, Scene 4, a number of unnatural events are listed in the conversation between Ross and the Old Man.



2. Style

In a play, the conversation between characters tells the story. Their exchange is referred to as dialogue.

Sometimes characters talk alone on stage to the audience about what they think or feel. This type of speech is called a soliloquy. The purpose is to allow the audience to see into the mind of the character and understand him or her better. Only the audience knows what the characters say in a soliloquy; the other characters in the play do not.

Examples of characters delivering soliloquies are:

- Act 3, Scene 1 begins with Banquo giving a short speech about the Witches 'prophecies and his suspicions of Macbeth's actions.
- At the beginning of Act 1, Scene 5, Lady Macbeth shares her feelings about her husband's lack of evil will which prevents him from acting on his ambition, after reading his letter. Her soliloquy (after the messenger has excited) is powerful as she calls on the evil spirits to take over her being completely resulting in her changing to an evil being. Her later soliloquies are given in her sleep, when she lets out her guilt and remorse (Act 5, Scene 1).
- Macbeth's soliloquies are, at first, evidence of his internal struggle against evil – in Act 1, Scene 7, he debates whether he should kill Duncan; before he commits the deed in Act 2, Scene 1, he ponders his decision once more ('Is this a dagger which I see before me,'). Later, when he talks to himself, he shares his unease about being in absolute power: 'to be thus is nothing, but to be safely thus,' (Act 3, Scene 1); or when he is in despair and contemplates the meaninglessness of life after all his struggles (Act 5, Scene 5).

2.2 Poetry and prose

In Macbeth some lines are written like a poem. The place where the lines end depends on the rhythm of the words. He uses blank verse (verse without rhyme) for the nobles, such as Macbeth. The language used by Macbeth, for example, is richer and more powerful than the language used by the witches or the messengers. This is entirely in keeping with Macbeth's higher social status. Other lines, usually with words said by servants and other ordinary people, are written in paragraphs that don't rhyme, which is called prose. For example the Porter in Act 2, Scene 3, lines 20 – 37 and the Doctor and Gentlewoman in Act 5, Scene 1. Rhymed verse is used for the witches (Act 3, Scene 5).

Blank verse

Most of Macbeth is written in a type of poetry called blank verse. The lines do not rhyme but the words have a regular rhythm, called iambic pentameter. The pattern for each line is one soft-sounding syllable followed by one strong-sounding syllable, repeated five times.

Rhyming couplet

If the last words in two lines sound similar (rhyme), it is a rhyming couplet. Here is an example of a rhyming couplet, from Malcom's discussion with Macduff while they are planning the attack:

'Put on their instruments. Receive what cheer you may,
The night is long that never finds the day' (Act 4, Scene 3, lines 238- 239).

2.3 Diction and figurative language

Shakespeare was very skilled at using language to describe things and to communicate his ideas in interesting ways:

- He used figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, personification.
- He played with the sound of the words, using alliteration, assonance and onomatopoeia.
- He used imagery and symbols to help us imagine what he describes. A symbol is something which represents something else. For example, a dove is a symbol of peace.
- He made jokes, using words that sound the same, or similar, but which have different meanings. This type of joke is called a pun. For example, 'I believe drink gave you the lie last night'.
- He used dramatic irony to increase the tension and involve the audience in the story.

2.4 Dramatic irony and irony

- Dramatic irony is an important literary device used in drama.
- It adds tension and suspense to the play.
- Dramatic irony means when the audience knows something in the play that one or more of the characters do not know. The audience understands the real meaning of what is happening.
- Foreshadowing is a similar concept to dramatic irony.
- Foreshadowing is when something that is said earlier in the play turns out to be true or to predict something that happens later.
- Irony is when there are two meanings to something said or done, for example when Duncan's visit is announced in Act 1, Scene 5, Lady Macbeth says, 'He that's coming/ Must be provided for,'. She is referring to her duties as a hostess, but the implication is there that preparations for Duncan's murder must be made.
- In Act 1, Scene 6, Duncan describes the castle as having a 'pleasant seat; the air/ nimbly and sweetly recommends itself /unto our gentle senses', while the audience is aware of that fact that his murder being planned inside the castle. (Act 1, Scene 6, l1-3).

'pleasant seat...'
Means it is a nice location, the air is sweet and appeals to my (Duncan's) refined (cultured) senses.

2.5 Stage directions

Macbeth is a play to be performed on stage, as well as read. Stage directions are instructions in the play, usually written in italics and in square brackets. They tell us:

- Where each scene takes place, such as a battlefield, an open area in nature or in the castle.
- When each character comes on to the stage (enters) and when he/she leaves (exits). The word 'exeunt' is plural and means more than one person leave the stage.
- Objects that the actors need to hold or use on stage. These objects are called 'props'.
- What a character has to do in certain parts of the play, for example, kiss another actor, or fight.
- When a character speaks so that the audience hears what is said but the other characters on stage do not. This is called an 'aside'.
- Shakespeare only wrote down a few stage directions to guide the actors. It is the job of the play's director to give more guidance. For example, the director decides where the actors stand on stage, how they move, and what the scenery and lighting should be like. Stage directions are useful to the reader because they assist the reader to imagine what is happening on stage.
- All these are important for creating the mood on stage and bringing the play to life. Each production of a Shakespeare play will be different because each director brings his or her own ideas about how the play should be performed on stage.

3.5 Tone and mood

In a play, tone is not only the feelings created by the language of the writer. Tone is also created by the sound of the actor's voice which expresses the emotion in the words. Does the actor's voice sound anxious, excited, happy or angry? Tone is important for expressing what the character feels.

In a play, the mood is the feeling, or atmosphere, that is created on stage. A combination of things can help to create the mood: the actors' expression of the characters' feelings, or emotions, their costumes, the scenery and lighting. In Macbeth the overlying mood is one of brooding because even when Macbeth receives the title of Thane of Cawdor, he somberly reflects on the prophecy in Act 1, Scene 3.

POSITIVE TONE WORDS		NEUTRAL (+, -, or neutral)	NEGATIVE TONE WORDS	
admiring	hilarious	commanding	abhorring	hostile
adoring	hopeful	direct	acerbic	impatient
affectionate	humorous	impartial	ambiguous	incredulous
appreciative	interested	indirect	ambivalent	indifferent
approving	introspective	meditative	angry	indignant
bemused	jovial	objective	annoyed	inflammatory
benevolent	joyful	questioning	antagonistic	insecure
blithe	laudatory	speculative	anxious	insolent
calm	light	unambiguous	apathetic	irreverent
casual	lively	unconcerned	apprehensive	lethargic
celebratory	mirthful	understated	belligerent	melancholy
cheerful	modest		bewildered	mischievous
comforting	nostalgic		biting	miserable
comic	optimistic		bitter	mocking
compassionate	passionate		blunt	mournful
complimentary	placid		bossy	nervous
conciliatory	playful		cold	ominous
confident	poignant		conceited	outraged
contented	proud		condescending	paranoid
delightful	reassuring		confused	pathetic
earnest	reflective		contemptuous	patronizing
ebullient	relaxed		curt	pedantic
ecstatic	respectful		cynical	pensive
effusive	reverent		demanding	pessimistic
elated	romantic		depressed	pretentious
empathetic	sanguine		derisive	psychotic
encouraging	scholarly		derogatory	resigned
euphoric	self-assured		desolate	reticent
excited	sentimental		despairing	sarcastic
exhilarated	serene		desperate	sardonic
expectant	silly		detached	scornful
facetious	sprightly		diabolic	self-deprecating
fervent	straightforward		disappointed	selfish
flippant	sympathetic		disliking	serious
forthright	tender		disrespectful	severe
friendly	tranquil		doubtful	sinister
funny	whimsical		embarrassed	skeptical
gleeful	wistful		enraged	sly
gushy	worshipful		evasive	solemn
happy	DOWNLOAD MORE RESOURCES LIKE THIS ON ECOLEBOOKS.COM			somber

POSITIVE TONE WORDS		NEUTRAL (+, -, or neutral)	NEGATIVE TONE WORDS	
admiring	hilarious	commanding	abhorring	hostile
			fearful	stern
			forceful	stolid
			foreboding	stressful
			frantic	strident
			frightened	suspicious
			frustrated	tense
			furious	threatening
			gloomy	tragic
			grave	uncertain
			greedy	uneasy
			grim	unfriendly
			harsh	unsympathetic
			haughty	upset
			holier-than-thou	violent
			hopeless	wry



4. Dramatic structure of the play

Five Acts:

ACT	DRAMATIC STRUCTURE	PURPOSE
Act 1	Exposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • audience learns the setting (time/place), • characters are developed • a conflict is introduced. • the 'who, where, when and why' are introduced.
Act 2	Rising action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • action in this act leads up to the climax. • the main character encounters obstacles.
Act 3	Climax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the turning point of the play • climax is characterised by the greatest suspense • most tense moment of the play
Act 4	Falling action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opposite of rising action • story is moving towards an end • any unknown details are wrapped up • often small scenes as the threads are brought together
Act 5	Denouement/resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • final outcome of the drama • author reveals tone about plot • might include a moral/lesson • 'denouement' means unknitting, suggesting all complications must be resolved



Character map



Character map

- A summary of what happens and who is involved – the main events and characters in the act.
- Information about characters, themes and language.
- Activities with exam-type questions for you to test yourself, and answers to these activities.

Act by Act

This section of the study guide contains:

- A summary of what happens and who is involved – the main events and characters in the act.
- Information about characters, themes and language.
- Activities with exam-type questions for you to test yourself, and Answers to these activities.



Act 1, Scene 1

- Three witches are speaking during a storm on the heath. A battle is taking place close by and they arrange to meet Macbeth when it is over.
- Setting: The heath/open space

What happens

- Three witches meet in a storm.
- A battle is taking place close by.
- They resolve to meet Macbeth when the battle is over.

Macbeth and Banquo meet the Three Witches



Theme: Order vs disorder

- A storm of thunder and lightning AND on earth the ongoing battles. The witches seem to revel in the current chaos.
- The three witches and their familiars are introduced here. They gather in an outdoor location while they create thunderstorms. They agree to meet again after the battle is over.
- The purpose of their next meeting is to meet with Macbeth. Once this meeting is arranged, they disappear from the scene, called away by Graymalkin (grey cat) and Paddock (toad) — their familiars or messengers between them and the devil. The familiars assist them in doing evil.
- The fact that the witches summon thunderstorms with their meeting reflects their ominous or evil intentions and the play's mood. A mood of malevolence or wickedness is created.
- Their interest in Macbeth and plan to meet him indicates:
- Their ability to see into the future = know when battle will be over AND where Macbeth will be thereafter.
- Their interest in Macbeth arouses the audience's suspicion – implies Macbeth is susceptible to evil.

Theme: Appearance vs reality

Evil is described as desirable, while good things are rejected - the witches show a total disregard for what is good or fair; they have a preference for what is evil or foul. "Fair is foul, and foul is fair"

Act 1, Scene 2

- King Duncan and his two sons meet the wounded soldier and Ross arrives to report that the King of Norway and the Thane of Cawdor have just been defeated.
- Setting: An army camp near Forres.

What happens

- King Duncan and his two sons Malcolm and Donalbain meet a wounded soldier who has just returned from the battle.
- The battle is fought between Duncan's army, commanded by Macbeth, and the rebels commanded by Macdonwald.
- The rebel army is helped by the King of Norway who has just supplied fresh soldiers for another attack.
- Just as the soldier is taken off to get help for his wounds, Ross arrives with the news that the King of Norway and another rebel, the Thane of Cawdor, have just been defeated.
- Macbeth's bravery, loyalty and nobility are contrasted to the treachery of Macdonwald and the Thane of Cawdor.
- Macbeth is presented as fearless, brave or courageous; he is a determined, strong-willed, competent soldier - relentless pursuer of the enemy. Duncan describes him as perfect kinsman - family member.
- Duncan rewards Macbeth by giving him the title Thane of Cawdor – the message is clear: disloyalty is punished by death while loyalty is rewarded.
- THREE people have worked together to overthrow King Duncan/Scotland
 - The traitor Macdonwald - assisted by Irish mercenaries – he is killed by Macbeth and his forces fled.
 - Sweno, the king of Norway – he is forced to negotiate a peaceful settlement, he is fined a large sum of money = to be distributed among the soldiers themselves.
 - Thane of Cawdor, another traitor, seems to have assisted both the above-mentioned people.
- Macbeth and Banquo, however, have no knowledge of his role in the battles - his execution is ordered by Duncan.



Activity 1

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

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 villainies of nature Do swarm upon him – from the Western Isles Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied; And Fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling, Showed like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak; For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name – Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished 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 unseamed him from the nave to the chaps, And fixed his head on our battlements.	5
DUNCAN:	O valiant cousin! Worthy gentleman!	10
SERGEANT:	As whence the sun 'gins his reflection Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break, So, from that spring whence comfort seemed to come, Discomfort swells. Mark, King of Scotland, mark: No sooner justice had, with valour armed, Compelled these skipping kerns to trust their heels, But the Norwegian lord, surveying vantage, With furbished arms and new supplies of men, Began a fresh assault.	15
DUNCAN:	Dismayed not this Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?	20
	Yes.	25
SERGEANT:	As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion. [Act 1, Scene 2]	30

Questions to Activity 1

- 1.1 Refer to lines 2-3 ('As two spent swimmers ... choke their art').
 - a) Identify the figure of speech used. (1)
 - b) Explain why it is used effectively. (2)
- 1.2 With which country is Scotland at war? (1)
- 1.3 What is meant by, 'unseamed him' (line 16)? (1)
- 1.4 Refer to line 18 ('O valiant cousin!').
 - a) To whom does 'valiant cousin' refer? (1)
 - b) Identify the tone in this line. (1)
- 1.5 What does this extract reveal about Macdonwald? (2)
- 1.6 Explain the effectiveness of the simile in line 31
'As sparrows...the lion'? (2)

Answers to Activity 1

- 1.1 a. Simile. (1)
 b. It effectively explains how exhausting the battle was; just as a competition between two swimmers would be exhausting / as two swimmers who are exhausted and struggle to continue ✓, so too is the battle between the two armies exhausting. ✓ (2)
- 1.2 Norway (1)
- 1.3 Ripped / slit / cut him open ✓ (with his sword). (1)
- 1.4 a) Macbeth ✓ (1)
 b) Praise / admiration / approval / pride / gratitude ✓ (1)
- 1.5 This extract suggests that Macdonwald is a traitor because he had joined forces with the enemy (the Norwegians) ✓ and betrayed his country (Scotland) ✓ (1)

OR

- This extract suggests that Macdonwald was ruthless / brave enough to rebel against his own country (Scotland) / people ✓ in favour of the enemy (Norway). ✓ (2)
- 1.6 It emphasises the bravery of Macbeth and Banquo because they were as disturbed by the new attack ✓ as an eagle would be scared of a sparrow or a lion would be scared of a hare. ✓ (2)

Act 1, Scene 3

- The Witches reappear and make misleading prophecies to entrap Macbeth and to make him wary of his friend Banquo.
- Setting: A heath/open space



What happens

- The witches gather again in preparation for their meeting with Macbeth.
- They tell each other what they have been doing.
- Macbeth and Banquo who are on their way to meet the King, Duncan, come upon them on the heath.
- They greet Macbeth as the Thane of Glamis, Thane of Cawdor, and king “hereafter”.
- They tell Banquo that he will never be a king himself but that he will be father of a long line of Scottish kings.
- Macbeth is already the Thane of Glamis.
- He does not know about the treachery of the Thane of Cawdor.
- However, Ross and Angus arrive and tell him that the Thane of Cawdor is about to be executed for treason and that his title has been given to Macbeth.
- Macbeth then begins to think about the witches’ third prophecy, and he begins to wonder how he might become king too.
- Ross indicates that the title was given to him by Duncan as a reward for his courage and loyalty on the battlefield.
- Ross assures him that this is just the beginning – Duncan plans to reward him even further.
- This raises Macbeth’s hope of being named Duncan’s successor.
- It also confirms Macbeth’s belief that the witches could predict the future.
- Macbeth immediately considers the murder of Duncan again. At the end of the scene, however, he decides to leave the future to chance.
- Banquo, noticing his reaction, warns him not to trust the witches: he says the witches are evil, they try to manipulate people by seemingly dealing in truths; however, it is merely a trick to win a person’s trust, they will finally use this false trust to cause such a person’s destruction.
- Macbeth pays no attention to this warning – he only acknowledges the truth of what Banquo is saying right at the end of the play, just before he is killed by Macduff.

Activity 2

Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.

The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Enter Macbeth and Banquo		
MACBETH:	So foul and fair a day I have not seen.	
BANQUO:	How far is't called to Forres? What are these, So withered, 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 question? You seem to understand me, By each at once her choppy finger laying Upon her skinny lips. You should be women, And yet your beards forbid me to interpret That you are so.	5
MACBETH:	Speak, if you can. What are you?	10
1ST WITCH:	All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis!	
2ND WITCH:	All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor!	
3RD WITCH:	All hail, Macbeth! that shalt be king hereafter!	

Questions to Activity 2

- 1.1 Describe the three witches in your own words. (3)
- 1.2 Refer to the prophecies made by the three witches about Macbeth and Banquo in Act 1, Scene 3. (2)
 - a) Describe the prophecies in your own words. (2)
 - b) Explain how the reaction of Macbeth and Banquo to the prophecies differ. (1)
- 1.3 Refer to the extract and quote a line that is linked to the theme of deception. (1)

Answers to Activity 2

- 1.1 The Witches look like women but have beards like men. ✓ They look as if they do not come from our world. ✓ They are old and withered with skinny fingers and lips. ✓ They talk in riddles and gestures. ✓ (Any 3) (3)
- 1.2 a) They prophesize that Macbeth will become the Thane of Cawdor ✓ and King of Scotland, however, Banquo's heirs will become kings in Scotland in the future. ✓ (2)
- b) Although both are amazed by the Witches and demand further explanation, Macbeth is captivated by the Witches, seeming to be under a spell ✓ cast by them, while Banquo talks more rationally ✓ about the 'bubbles' that appear and disappear and can scarcely believe what they were told. (2)
- 1.3 'So foul and fair a day I have not seen.' (1)

Act 1, Scene 4

- Malcolm reports to the King the execution of the Thane of Cawdor
- The King thanks Macbeth for his heroics, he proclaims Malcolm his son as his heir
- Setting: The palace at Forres (King's palace)

What happens

- The King says he is coming to visit Macbeth and his wife in their castle. Macbeth makes the decision to kill his king.
- Duncan asks whether the execution of the Thane of Cawdor has already been carried out. Malcolm says he heard that Cawdor died honourably by confessing his treason and repenting before he died.
- This scene highlights Duncan's major characteristics: he is kind and generous; he appreciates and values Macbeth's loyalty; he is too trusting. These make him vulnerable to traitors. He acknowledges that he was deceived by the previous Thane of Cawdor. Ironically, Macbeth enters the scene at this very moment and hears these words too.
- Duncan warmly welcomes him and thanks him for his loyalty, again promising additional rewards.
- This again raises Macbeth's hope to be named Duncan's successor. Shortly hereafter Duncan, however, names Malcolm as his successor.
- Macbeth immediately considers murder again, acknowledging that Malcolm has become an additional obstacle in his way to the throne.
- Macbeth calls down darkness to hide his evil thoughts.
- Duncan announces that he will sleep over at Macbeth's castle that night, a great honour for any subject. This, however, also creates the perfect opportunity for Macbeth to get rid of Duncan.
- Macbeth requests permission to ride ahead of the rest of the group so that he could carry over the good news of the King's visit to his wife, in person.
- Duncan believes that Macbeth wants to ride ahead because he wants to be at his castle before him (the king), so that he can personally welcome him to his castle – he believes that Macbeth's love for him (Duncan) and his wife are what motivated him to ride home as fast as he can.



Activity 3

Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
The number of marks allocated to each question serves a guide to the expected length of your answer.

The palace at Forres. Enter King Duncan, Malcolm, Donaldbain, Lennox and Attendants.

DUNCAN:	Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not		
MALCOLM:	Those in commission yet returned?		
	My liege,		
	They are not yet come back. But I have spoke		5
	With one that saw him die, who did report		
	That very frankly he confessed his treasons,		
	Implored your highness' pardon and set forth		
	A deep repentance. Nothing in his life		
	Became him like the leaving of it; he died		10
	As one that had been studied in his death,		
	To throw away the dearest thing he owed		
	as 'twere a careless trifle.		
DUNCAN:		There's no art	
	To find the mind's construction in the face;		
	He was a gentleman on whom I built		15
	An absolute trust.		
	<i>Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Ross and Angus</i>		
	O worthiest cousin!		
	The sin of my ingratitude even now		
	Was heavy on me. Thou art so far before,		
	That swiftest wing of recompense is slow		
	To overtake thee. Would though hadst less deserved,		20
	That the proportion both of thanks and payment		
	Might have been mine! Only I have left to say,		
	More is thy due than more than all can pay.		
MACBETH	The service and loyalty I owe,		
	In doing it, pays itself. Your highness's part		25
	Is to receive our duties, and out duties		
	Are to your throne and state, children and servants;		
	Which do but what they should, by doing everything		
	Save toward your love and honour.		
DUNCAN		Welcome hither.	
	I have began to plant thee, and will labour		
	To make thee full of growing. Noble Banquo,		30
BANQUO	Thou hast no less deserved, nor must be known		
	No less to have done so; let me infold thee,		
	And hold thee to my heart.		
		There if I grow,	
	The harvest is your own		
		Act 1, Scene 4 [lines 1-34]	

Questions to Activity 3

1. Who is the Cawdor referred in line 1? (1)
2. Why does the Cawdor face execution? (2)
3. Explain what is meant by 'Nothing in his life / Became him like the leaving it,' (lines 7-8). (2)
4. What is ironic in Macbeth's speech about the loyalty he owes King Duncan? (2)
5. What does Duncan mean when he says to Macbeth 'I have begun to plant thee,' (line 28)? (2)
6. In what way does Banquo's reply to Duncan (lines 32-33) tell us how different he is from Macbeth in the way he sees the King's favorite? (3)

Answers to Activity 3

1. He is the rebel who betrayed Scotland by joining the enemy. (1)
2. Because he chose to join the army of the enemy. (2)
3. He did nothing in his life as well as he behaved when facing his death by execution, which he did bravely and quietly, saying how sorry he was for having done wrong. (2)
4. Macbeth has already thought about killing his king, who is also his cousin and his 'liege' (lord). This is dramatic irony because the audience knows how Macbeth responded to the Witches' prophecies, and two speeches further on, Macbeth makes it clear that he has already decided to act against Duncan and get rid of him ('yet let that be/Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see') (Act 1, Scene 4, lines 52-53). (2)
5. Duncan has given Macbeth another title and will reward him further for any loyalty or service. (2)
6. Banquo says that if Duncan rewards him, the 'harvest' is Duncan's. He is promising further service but not seeking rewards. (3)

/12/



ACT 1 Scene 5

- Lady Macbeth receives a letter from her husband telling her about the Witches. Macbeth sent a servant ahead to deliver this message to his wife. This is the moment when she decides that she will convince her husband to kill Duncan that night.
- Setting: Inverness – Macbeth's castle

What happens

- At Macbeth's home, the Castle of Inverness, Lady Macbeth reads a letter from her husband concerning his meeting with the Witches.
- She is immediately aware of the significance of their prophetic words and, on being informed that King Duncan will be paying a royal visit to Inverness, makes up her mind to carry out the murder of the king in order to hasten the prophecy.
- In doing so, she suggests that her husband is weak — he contains too much of "the milk of human kindness."
- When Macbeth arrives from the court of Duncan, bearing news of the king's forthcoming visit, his wife makes her plans clear to him.

Activity 4

Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.
Inverness: Macbeth's castle. Enter Lady Macbeth, reading a letter.

<p>LADY M: 'They met me on the day of success; and I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to question them further, they made themselves air, into which they vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the King, who all-hailed me "Thane of Cawdor", by which title, before These Weird Sisters saluted me, and referred me to the coming On of time with "Hail, King that shalt be!". This I have thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.'</p>	5
<p>Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be What thou art promised; yet do I fear thy nature. It is too full o'th' milk of human kindness To catch the nearest way; thou wouldst be great, Art not without ambition, but without 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 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 crowned withal.</p>	10
<p>Act 1, Scene 5 [Lines 1-28]</p>	15
	20
	25

Questions to Activity 4

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1 Who are "They" referred to in the extract? | (1) |
| 2 What does Macbeth's letter tell us about how Macbeth feels about his wife? | (2) |
| 3 How would you describe Macbeth's character as summarized by his wife in the extract? | (2) |
| 4 What does Lady Macbeth's calling on the spirits of darkness tell us about her character? | (3) |

Answers to Activity 4

1. The Three witches (1)
 2. They have a very close, loving and trusting relationship. He refers to her with a term of endearment as the 'dearest partner of greatness'. This suggests the extent of his love for her such that he cannot wait to be at home to share the good news with her in person. (2)
 3. Macbeth is too kind hearted and not purposeful enough in nature. Although he wants to be king, he would rather get the crown in an honourable, deserving way. He is sensitive and full of nervous fear. She knows that he needs her strength to motivate him if they are to kill the King. (2)
 4. Lady Macbeth will go to any lengths to get what she wants. She is not evil enough by nature and wants to use the spirits of darkness to change her 'naturally' womanish nature to one of strength and force. She needs to act in an unnatural, inhumane way to be able to convince her husband to commit the murder. (3)
- /8/**

Act 1, Scene 6

- King Duncan and his followers arrive at Inverness
- Setting: Inverness: at the entrance to the castle



What happens

- Duncan, accompanied by his two sons Malcolm and Donalbain, as well as a few of the thanes, including Banquo, arrives at Inverness.
- Dramatic irony is evident: the audience knows about the evil plans of the Macbeths; however, Duncan and Banquo elaborate on the beautiful setting of the castle and its peaceful, inviting atmosphere – appearances are indeed very deceptive.
- Duncan and Banquo portray equal sincerity, nobility and honour – they are both vulnerable to treachery.
- Lady Macbeth, instead of Macbeth, welcomes Duncan – Macbeth is not yet able to hide his feelings of guilt / control his facial expression.
- Although this is not what Duncan expected (he thought Macbeth rode ahead to be the one to welcome his king personally) he receives Lady Macbeth's greeting and hospitality humbly and gratefully.
- Lady Macbeth appears to be extremely loyal; she graciously thanks Duncan for the way he has honoured and rewarded them – by giving them the new title and by his visit.
- She is equivocating - she plans Duncan's murder and carries out the advice she gave Macbeth = to hide his real feelings by manipulating his facial expression.
- Duncan, who has admitted that he has an inability to read people's facial expressions is taken in by her display of false loyalty – he appreciates the warm welcome.

Activity 5

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Before Macbeth's castle. Hautboys and torches. Enter Duncan, Malcolm, Donaldbain, Banquo, Lennox, Macduff, Ross, and Angus, and Attendants.

DUNCAN	This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself Unto our gently senses.	
BANQUO	This guest of summer, The temple-haunting martlet, does approve By his loved masonry that the heaven's breath Smells wooingly here. No jutting, frieze, Buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird Hath made his pendent bed and procreant cradle; Where they most breed and haunt, I have observed The air is delicate.	5 10
<i>Enter Lady Macbeth</i>		
DUNCAN	See, see our honoured 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,	
LADY M	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, We rest your hermits.	15
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 help him To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess, We are your guest to-night.	20 25
Act 1, Scene 6 [lines 1-25]		

Questions to Activity 5

1. Where have Duncan and Banquo just come from? (1)
 2. Why have they come to the castle? (1)
 3. What is the mood at the castle? (2)
 4. What is Duncan's attitude to his host and hostess? (2)
 5. Discuss the irony of Duncan's words in the following sentences:
 - (a) Line 1 "This castle hath ... our gently senses" (2)
 - (b) Line 12 "See, see our... is our trouble" (2)
 - (c) Line 25 "We are your guest to-night." (2)
 6. Explain how Lady Macbeth's words in lines 16-20 provide reasons why she and her husband should not be plotting to kill Duncan? (3)
- /15/**

Answers to Activity 5

1. From King Duncan's palace, Forres. (1)
 2. To celebrate the victory from the battlefield where Macbeth fought gallantly.
To honour Macbeth for his role in their victory on the battlefield and to celebrate the fact the order has been restored in Scotland. (1)
 3. The mood is very pleasant. This is suggested by the imagery used. Such words as 'pleasant seat', 'the air nimbly and sweetly', 'gentle senses', 'loved masonry', 'heaven's breath'. (2)
 4. a) The positive description of the castle as 'pleasant', 'loved masonry' and 'full of heaven's breath' is the opposite of the vicious murder that is being planned within the walls of the castle. (2)
b) Duncan thanks his hostess for the 'trouble' that the Macbeths have taken to prepare for his visit, yet he is completely unaware of the actual 'trouble' they are plotting. (2)
c) Duncan says, 'We are your guest tonight,' which calls on the tradition of the host looking after the welfare of his guests and seeing to their safety and pleasure, meanwhile the Macbeths are planning to kill him. (2)
 5. She mentions the 'honours' that they have received from Duncan, both old ones (not specified) and the new ones (the title of Thane of Cawdor and the visit from the King). (3)
- /15/**

Act 1, Scene 7

Alone, Macbeth ponders the deed that he is about to perform and his wife convinces him to do it.

Setting: Inverness: a room in Macbeth's palace

What happens

- Macbeth lets the audience into his thoughts in a soliloquy about how he feels as he waits for the time to arrive when he will commit the murder.
- He decides not to continue with the murder and tells his wife.
- When he informs her of his decision not to commit the murder she scolds him and accuses him of being a coward and of not loving her if he will not act on their desires.
- Macbeth quickly replies that he is man enough for the job.
- Lady Macbeth declares that she knows more about manliness than he does and would keep her promise no matter what.
- He finds himself agreeing to do it and admires her strength and resolve.
- Themes: appearance vs reality; reversal of moral values; good vs evil.
- Banquet for Duncan is being held – Macbeth, wrestling with moral issues regarding the murder has left the table to reconsider the murder plans.
- He realises that regicide (killing of a king) will lead to his damnation AND it will unleash a cycle of violence in which he too will be caught up.
- He concludes that he WILL not go ahead with the planned murder.
- He gives THREE moral reasons for this decision:
 - Duncan is his king and family member who trusts him unconditionally;

- Duncan is his guest, as a host he has to protect him, not kill him;
- Duncan has been an exceptionally good, mild and virtuous king.

Activity 6

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

LADY M	He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?	
MACBETH	Hath he asked for me?	
LADY M	Know you not he has?	
MACBETH	We will proceed no further in this business. He hath honoured me of late, and I have bought Golden opinions from all sorts of people, Which would worn now in their newest gloss, Not cast aside so soon.	5
LADY M	Was the hope drunk Wherein you dressed 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 esteems 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'th' adage?	10
		15
[Act 1, Scene 7 lines 28- 45]		

Questions to Activity 6:

1. Complete the following sentences by using the words in the list below. Write only the word next to the question numbers 1(a) to 1(d)) in the ANSWER BOOK.
After the battle the Thane of (a) ... is killed for being a traitor. King Duncan decides to give his title to Macbeth as a reward for fighting so (b) ... in the battle. Being (c) ... Macbeth and (d) ...make plans to kill the king. (4)
2. Refer to line 5 ('We will proceed ... in this business').
(a) What business is Macbeth referring to? (1)
(b) Give a reason why he thinks he should not proceed with the business. (1)
3. Refer to line 6 ('He hath honoured me of late ...').
Explain the irony contained in this line. (2)
4. Refer to lines 10–11 ('was the hope ... you dressed yourself?').
If you were the stage director of this play, which TWO things would you tell Lady Macbeth to do? (2)
5. Refer to line 20 ('Like the poor cat i'th adage').
(a) The figure of speech in this line is an example of ...
A metaphor (1)
B simile
C personification
D euphemism (1)
(b) Why is this figure of speech appropriate when referring to Macbeth at this point in the drama? (2)
6. What does this extract reveal about Lady Macbeth's character?
Explain your answer. (2)
7. Do you sympathise with Macbeth in this extract? Discuss your view. (3)

Answers to Activity 6:

1. (a) Cawdor ✓
(b) bravely ✓
(c) ambitious ✓
(d) Lady Macbeth ✓ (4)
 2. (a) The killing of King Duncan. ✓ (1)
(b) Duncan is his cousin/Duncan has just rewarded him with a title to thank him/He is the host he should be the one protecting the king/ Duncan has conducted himself so well as a king. ✓ (1)
 3. Duncan has rewarded Macbeth by giving him a title of Macdonwald, who was considered to be a traitor because he fought against Scotland. Macbeth fought bravely against Macdonwald and the King trusts him, Macbeth is now the one who ends up killing the King, therefore is a traitor and untrustworthy. ✓✓ (2)
 4. Lady Macbeth should look up straight into Macbeth's eyes. ✓ She should put her hands on her waist/hips. ✓ She should frown. ✓ She should bend her body forward. ✓ (2)
- NOTE:** Accept any TWO relevant responses. (2)
5. (a) B/simile ✓ (1)
(b) Macbeth wants the crown/wants to be the king ✓ and yet he is reluctant to kill the king, he is like a cat who would want to catch a fish but would not want to get his feet wet. ✓ (2)
 6. Lady Macbeth is very cruel/heartless ✓ – Macbeth is afraid to proceed with their cruel plan but Lady Macbeth insists that they should continue with the killing. ✓ (2)

OR

She is manipulative ✓ – she blackmails Macbeth by doubting his love/that Macbeth is not man enough/She accuses Macbeth of being a coward. ✓

NOTE: Accept any ONE of the above combinations.

7. Open-ended. Accept a relevant response which shows an understanding of the drama, among others: (1)
- No.**

Macbeth is the one who initially comes up with the plan to kill King Duncan after he meets with the witches.

- He convinces Lady Macbeth about what the witches have told him and the result thereof.
- Now that the opportunity is available, he is backing off when Lady Macbeth has already made plans.

OR

Yes

He is now bound by his conscience that what he plans is wrong.

- He does not want to do it anymore but the wife is now blackmailing him/she is forcing him to do what he no longer wants to do.
- He loves his wife and he wants to prove that he is not a coward.

(3)
/18/

Act 2, Scene 1

Macbeth meets Banquo and Fleance (Banquo's son).

Macbeth exits to go and kill the king.

Setting: Court of Macbeth's castle at Inverness.

What happens

- Theme: loyalty and honour vs treachery
- It is after midnight and completely dark – The Macbeths got what they both wished for total darkness to hide their evil deeds.
- Banquo and Fleance enter. Fleance carries a torch – metaphorically it proves that he (and Banquo) are associated with goodness, honour and purity.
- Banquo is haunted by thoughts of the three witches' predictions and finds it impossible to sleep. He prays for God's protection – he prays not to be allowed to be tempted to do something evil.
- They run into Macbeth who is waiting for a signal from his wife that everything is set for the murder.
- Banquo honestly and openly admits that he is troubled by the witches' predictions.
- Macbeth bluntly lies to him, saying that he has not even thought about the witches' predictions again.

- Macbeth then goes ahead to test Banquo's loyalty towards Duncan, saying that if Banquo supports him when the time comes, he, Banquo, will be generously rewarded.
- Banquo seems to pick up on Macbeth's hidden message and he declares his unconditional loyalty to Duncan, thereby signing his own death sentence; Macbeth will have to get rid of him too.
- Macbeth immediately dismisses Banquo and Fleance.
- Once alone, Macbeth's over-active imagination, confusion and guilt over the planned murder cause him to see the vision of the dagger that leads him towards Duncan's room.
- Lady Macbeth rings the bell to indicate that the scene is set for the murder.
- Macbeth refers to the bell as a funeral bell as it announces Duncan's death.
- His mind is made up and he enters Duncan's room to proceed with the murder.
- Shakespeare chooses NOT to let us witness the murder – it takes place off stage.

Activity 7

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Enter Macbeth with a torch and meets Banquo

BANQUO	Give me a 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	5
MACBETH	Being unprepared, Our will became the servant to defect, Which else should free have wrought.	10
BANQUO	All's well I dreamt last night of the three Weird Sisters. To you they have showed 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.	
BANQUO	At your kind'st leisure.	15
MACBETH	If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis, It shall make honour for you.	
BANQUO	So I lose none In seeking to augment it, but still keep My bosom franchised and allegiance clear, I shall be counselled.	
MACBETH	Good repose the while!	20
BANQUO	Thanks, sir; the like to you! Act 2, Scene 1 [1-21]	

Questions to Activity 7

1. Why does Banquo say he 'would not sleep'? (1)
 2. Why do you think Macbeth calls Banquo 'friend' and asks him to talk about the Witches when they have time, yet lies to him by saying that he does not think of the Witches at all? (3)
 3. How does Banquo's reply to Macbeth's promise / threat show that Macbeth is right not to trust him? (2)
 4. In his soliloquy, Macbeth first talks about how his imagination is going wild, then seems to pull himself together, and finally prepares himself for the coming murder. Where are the three breaks in the speech that mark his hanging mood? (4)
- (10)**

Answers to Activity 7

1. Banquo has terrible dreams when he sleeps and know these thoughts are 'cursed'. His dreams are not that different from Macbeth's but he does not want to have them. (1)
 2. Once he has decided to murder the King, Macbeth knows he can trust no one with this knowledge – especially not his honest friend, Banquo. (3)
 3. Banquo states very clearly that he will follow Macbeth as long as he can do so with a clear conscience. (2)
 4. The first break comes after the full stop after 'Which was not so before' (line 48). As he says 'There's no such thing', he rouses himself from the horrible imaginings and turns to logical explanations of his state. The second break comes after 'Thus to mine eyes' (line 50). The last part of the speech (third break) concentrates on how nature seems to be in tune with the deed he is about to commit. By the time the bell rings, he is ready to answer it. (4)
- /10/**



Act 2, Scene 2

- Lady Macbeth is on edge, waiting for Macbeth to return from the king's chamber.
- Macbeth kills the king.
- Setting: Inverness: within the castle.

What happens

- Lady Macbeth is nervously waiting for her husband to commit the murder. She is extremely stressed out:
 - every noise frightens her, like the hooting of an owl (associated with death);
 - she had to drink some of the alcohol she gave the guards to calm her down;
 - she discloses that she tried to kill Duncan herself but could not – she says he looked too much like her own father. The first indication that she is not as evil as she herself believes.
- She hears Macbeth cry out in dismay and assumes that they have been caught out.
- Moments later Macbeth enters and says that he has killed Duncan – she is immensely impressed, proud of him and praises him.
- Macbeth, however, is devastated about what he has done.
- He believes that he heard somebody cry 'that Macbeth will sleep no more', because he has 'murdered sleep' - only the innocent can sleep peacefully.
- What troubles him the most is that he could not say 'amen' to a prayer for God's protection and blessing. This is the first indication that he has cut himself off from God's grace.
- Macbeth is so stressed out that he even forgot to leave the daggers with the guards and smear them with blood.
- His wife is equally stressed out as she, at first, does not even notice the daggers in his hands. Only when Macbeth refers to the blood on his hands does she see the daggers.
- She immediately orders him to take them back and smear the guards with blood.
- He refuses – he says he finds it hard to think about what he has done; he refuses to go back into the room and be forced to look at the evidence of his deed that is Duncan's body.
- His wife, like before, accuses him of being a coward. This time her attack has no effect on him. He still refuses to go back, despite her insults - she is losing her control over her husband.
- She grabs the daggers from him, saying that if Duncan still bleeds, she will dip her hands in his blood and smear the guards with blood.

- She leaves the room to do exactly that - she smears the guards with blood and plants the daggers on them.
- Staring at his hands Macbeth says that not even all the water in the ocean will be able to wash the blood off his hands, in fact the water of the ocean will redden from the blood on his hands. Blood symbolises the enormity of his feelings of guilt.
- He is overwhelmed by his guilty conscience; he has betrayed himself and his better judgement; he has turned into somebody he does not even want to know.
- He is filled with regret and wishes he could undo the murder.
- Lady Macbeth returns after having smeared the guards with blood and placed their bloody daggers with them.
- She proudly shows off her blood-covered hands, saying that her hands are now as red as Macbeth's, but at least she is not as cowardly as he is.
- She claims that 'A little water clears us from the deed' – she believes that removing the evidence will clean her conscience too. (She is sadly mistaken – she will be driven mad by her conscience and supposedly commits suicide at the end of the drama.)
- The persistent knocking at the gate continues (Macduff has come to wake Duncan).
- Macbeth is shocked into immobility, his wife has to practically drag him off stage so that they can wash their hands and put on their night clothes. It must look as if they were asleep when the murder took place – appearance vs reality.
- They plan to show excessive grief and shock when Duncan's body is discovered.

Activity 8

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

LADY M	That which has made them drunk has made me bold What had quenched them hath given me fire. Hark! Peace! It was the owl that shrieked, the fatal bellman, Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it; The doors are open, and the surfeited grooms Do mock their charge with snores. I have drugged their possets, That death and nature do contend about them, Whether they live or die.	5
MACBETH	(within) Who's there? What, ho!	
LADY M	Alack, I am afraid they have awaked And 'tis not done. The attempt and not the deed Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready, He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled My father as he slept, I had done 't. <i>Enter Macbeth</i>	10
	My husband!	15
MACBETH	I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?	
LADY M	I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry. Did you not speak?	
MACBETH	When?	
LADY M	Now.	20
MACBETH	As I descended?	
LADY M	Ay.	
MACBETH	Hark! Who lies i'th' second chamber?	
LADY M	Donalbain.	25
MACBETH	(looking on his hand) This is a sorry sight.	
LADY M	A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.	

Questions to Activity 8

1. Choose a description in COLUMN B that matches the word in COLUMN A. Write only the letter (A–E) next to the question number 1.(a) – 1. (d).

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
(a) owl	A. nobleman of Scotland
(b) dagger	B. Duncan's son
(c) Macbeth's castle	C. an animal
(d) Donalbain	D. symbol of death
	E. sword
	F. Inverness

2. Refer to line 1. ("That whichme bold"). (4)
 (a) Who are the 'them' referred to in line 1? (1)
 (b) What has actually made them drunk? (1)
 (c) Why did Lady Macbeth want to be bold at that time? (2)
3. Refer to line 4 ("He is about it;") (1)
 Explain what Lady Macbeth is referring to in this line. (1)
4. Refer to line 6 ("I have drugged their possets,") (1)
 Give a reason why Lady Macbeth 'drugged their possets'.
5. How do we know that Macbeth was not addressing Lady Macbeth in line 8 ("Who's there? What, ho!")? (1)
6. Refer to line 11 ("Hark! I laid....ready") (2)
 Give two reasons why Lady Macbeth "laid their daggers ready".
7. Refer to line 14 ("I have done the deed") (1)
 (a) What Macbeth is saying suggests he is making a... (1)
 A. Confession
 B. Concession
 C. Conclusion
 D. Confirmation
 (b) Substantiate your selection in 7. (a). (1)
8. Refer to lines 26 – 27 ('This is aa sorry sight'). (1)
 (a) Explain why Macbeth referred to his hands as being 'a sorry sight'? (1)
 (b) Why did Lady Macbeth admonish that thought in line 27? (2)

[18]

Answers to Activity 8

1. (a) D ✓ (1)
 (b) E ✓ (1)
 (c) F ✓ (1)
 (d) B ✓ (1)
2. (a) Duncan's bodyguards ✓ (1)
 (b) Wine mixed with a drug (or drugs) given to them by Lady Macbeth ✓ (1)
 (c) She knew that Macbeth was about to kill/assassinate Duncan ✓, so she wanted to ensure that the plan did not fail. ✓ (2)
3. It means that Macbeth was now killing/murdering King Duncan. ✓ (1)
4. She wanted the guard to be asleep so that Duncan could be unguarded. ✓ (1)
5. Lady Macbeth is the only one on stage at that time. ✓

OR

- Macbeth's voice can only be heard off stage so he is not addressing her. ✓ (1)
6. Macbeth was supposed to use their daggers to kill Duncan. ✓ (2)
So that these guards could become the suspects for murdering the King. ✓ (1)
7. (a) D. ✓ (1)
(b) He was confirming to Lady Macbeth that he had killed Duncan according to their plan. ✓ (1)
8. (a) His hands had Duncan's blood on them. ✓ (1)
(b) She wanted him to focus on the reason why Duncan had to be killed, ✓ rather than to feel sorry or guilty about what he had done. ✓ (2)
- /18/**

Act 2, Scene 3

- Macbeth takes Macduff to the Duncan's room; he is the one who discovers the dead body and the King's sons decide to flee Scotland for their own safety.
- Setting: in the gateway of Macbeth's castle as well as inside the Inverness

What happens

- Porter scene – the porter struggles to wake from his drunken sleep to respond to the knocking at the gate:
 - his bawdy jokes provide comic relief;
 - his delay in opening the gate enables the Macbeths to change into their nightclothes to create the impression that they were sleeping;
 - the delay also creates suspense as it delays the discovery of the murder; the theme of treachery and damnation is introduced as the porter compares Macbeth's castle to hell – he imagines that he is the porter at hell's gate and is welcoming one sinner after the other into hell.
 - Macduff is finally let in by the porter, he has come to wake King Duncan at his command.
 - A nervous, but in complete control of his emotions, Macbeth directs him towards Duncan's room.
 - While they wait for Macduff to return, Lennox describes a night of unruly weather with strong winds and an owl that hooted the entire night.
 - Macbeth's response that it was 'a rough night' is meant mainly metaphorical.
 - The murder is discovered by Macduff – he is too shocked to even mention the word murder or death and invites Macbeth and Lennox to go and see for themselves.
 - While Macbeth and Lennox hurry to Duncan's room Macduff goes ahead to wake everybody else in the castle.
 - Minutes before Macbeth refused to go back there – now he rushes in and (as we will hear later) kills the two defenceless guards. Most probably so that they could not protest or prove their innocence.
 - Lady Macbeth comes in to find out what all the commotion is about. Macduff tells her that the news is too gruesome to share with a woman – wonderful example of dramatic irony.
 - When Banquo enters the room, Macduff announces that Duncan has been murdered.
 - Lady Macbeth pretends to be shocked, but her 'what, in our house' sounds rather insensitive and arouses Banquo's suspicion.
 - Macbeth and Lennox return, just ahead of Malcolm and Donalbain. Macbeth confirms that the king is dead, and Lennox adds that they found the guards with bloodied faces and blood-covered daggers lying on their pillows – it makes them look guilty of the murder.
 - Macbeth puts up a pretence of sorrow and expresses regret that he has killed the guards.
 - This action immediately arouses Macduff's suspicion – he questions Macbeth about his reasons for doing that and Macbeth starts giving a feeble, wordy and unlikely excuse.
- Lady Macbeth suddenly faints:
 - it might have been an effort to get the attention away from Macbeth as he was giving himself away with his explanation;
 - she might also really have fainted because of all the stress she went through the previous night and because of the shock at the news that Macbeth has killed the guards – it was not part of the plan.
- Whatever the real reason, her fainting enables Malcolm and Donalbain to talk – they realise their lives are in danger too and decide to flee: Malcolm to England and Donalbain to Ireland.
- This decision ensures that Macbeth, who is related to Duncan and next in line to the throne, can take over the kingship without any further delay.

Activity 9

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

DONALDBAIN	What is amiss?		
MACBETH	You are, and do not know't. The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood		
MACDUFF	Your royal father's murdered.		5
MALCOLM		O, by whom?	
LENNOX	Those of his chamber, as it seemed, had done't. Their hands and faces were all badged with blood; So were their daggers, which unwiped we found Upon their pillows. They stared, and were distracted; no man's life Was to be trusted with them		10
MACBETH	O yet I do repent me of my fury, That I did kill them.		
MACDUFF		Wherefore did you so?	15
MACBETH	Who can be wise, amazed, temperate and furious, Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man. The expedition of my violent Love Outrun the pauser, Reason. Here lay Duncan, His silver skin laced with his golden blood, And his gashed stabs looked like a breach in nature For ruin's wasteful entrance; there, the murderers, Steeped in the colours of their trade, their daggers Unmannerly breeched with gore; who could refrain, That had a heart to love, and in that heart Courage to make's love known?		20
LADY M		Help me hence, ho!	25
MACDUFF	Look to the lady.		
MALCOLM	(aside to Donaldbain) What should be spoken here, where our fate, Hid in an auger-hole, may rush and seize us? Let's away; Our tears are not yet brewed		30
MALCOLM	(aside to Donaldbain) Nor our strong sorrow Upon the foot of motion.		35
BANQUO	(Lady Macbeth is carried out) And when we have our naked frailties hid, That suffer in exposure, let us meet, And question this most bloody piece of work, To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us. In the great hand of God I stand, and thence Against the undivulged pretence I fight Of treasonous malice.	Look to the lady.	40
MACDUFF		And so do I.	45
ALL	So all		
MACBETH	Let's briefly put on manly readiness,		

And meet i'th' hall together.

Act 2 Scene 3 [lines 1-49]

Questions to Activity 9

1. Who killed Duncan? (1)
 2. Who are the suspects? Why are they suspects? Support your answer by referring to the extract. (3)
 3. Macbeth admits to killing the King's grooms. (2)
 - (a) Why did he do that? (2)
 - (b) Do you agree with his reasons? Support your answer. (3)
 4. Lady Macbeth has been the strong figure in the previous scenes. Why do you think she faints here? (3)
- /12/**

Answers to Activity 9

- 1 Macbeth (1)
 - 2 King's grooms. They are suspects because they were found with daggers dipped in blood. They were also covered in blood. (3)
 - 3 (a) He says that he did it for the love of Duncan/he was angry at what the grooms have done/he was confused at the same time angry and emotional/his reasoning capacity was also affected by the sacrilegious act. (2)
 - (b) No. The only reason is to cover what he has done. If the grooms were to be allowed to testify, Macbeth would be implicated. (3)
 - 4 Either she is still controlling the action and wants to draw the thanes' attention away from her guilty-looking husband; or she is shocked that Macbeth has done more than they had agreed and realises he is not going to be guided by her any longer. (3)
- /12/**



Act 2, Scene 4

Since King Duncan's sons had fled, Macbeth becomes eligible to be crowned the king and Macduff refuses to go to Scone to see Macbeth crowned.

Setting: outside the castle

What happens

- Ross and an old man are outside the castle talking about the strange things that happened during the night of the murder.
- Nature seems to have mirrored the deeds inside the castle.
- Macduff arrives and tells them that the King's sons seem to be guilty of persuading the grooms to murder Duncan.
- Ross realises that Macbeth is next in line to be king.
- Macduff says he will not go to Scone to see Macbeth crowned - this shows suspicion of Macbeth.

Activity 10

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.

The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

OLD MAN	Just like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last A falcon towering in her pride of place, Was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed.	'Tis unnatural	
ROSS	And Duncan's horses – a thing most strange and certain – Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race, Turned wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out, Contending 'gainst obedience as they would make War with mankind.		5
OLD MAN		'Tis said they ate each other.	10
ROSS	They did so, to the amazement of mine eyes, That looked upon't.		
Enter Macduff		Here comes the good Macduff.	
	How goes the world, sir, now?		
MACDUFF		Why, see you not?	15
ROSS	Is't known who did this more than bloody deed?		
MACDUFF	Those that Macbeth had slain.		
ROSS		Alas, the day!	
	What good could they pretend?		
MACDUFF	They were suborned. Malcolm and Donaldbain, the King's two sons, Are stol'n away and fled, which puts upon them Suspicion of the deed.		20
ROSS		'Gainst Nature still;	
	Thriftless ambition, that wilt ravin up Thine own life's means! Then 'tis most like The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.		25
MACDUFF	He is already named, and gone to Scone To be invested.		
ROSS	Where is Duncan's body?		30
MACDUFF	Carried to Come-kill, The sacred storehouse of his predecessors And guardian of their bones		
ROSS		Will you to Scone	
MACDUFF	No, cousin, I'll to Fife.		35
ROSS		Well, I will thither.	
MACDUFF	Well, may you see things well done there. Adieu! Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!		
ROSS	Farewell, father.		
OLD MAN	God's benison go with you, and with those That would make good and bad and fies of foes!		40
	Act 2 Scene 4		

Questions to Activity 10

1. The 'fair is foul' theme is echoed again and again in this scene. Summarise the events described by Ross and the old man tell us about what is happening in the land. (3)
 2. Why does Macduff suspect that the King is killed by his sons? (1)
 3. What is significant about Macduff's not wanting to go to the coronation of Macbeth? (3)
- /7/**

Answers to Activity 10

1. The key word is 'unnatural'. Nothing seems to be following the laws of nature or is behaving as expected. Macbeth's action in killing his king/ cousin/guest has been reflected in the natural world. (3)
 2. Because they have fled the country. (1)
 3. Macduff is seen as a 'good' man. He may be suspicious of Macbeth or think that Macbeth should not have been crowned king. He is separating himself from that court and going home. (3)
- /7/**

Act 3, Scene 1

Macbeth announces the holding of a royal feast and plans to kill Banquo and Fleance
Setting: Forres: a room in the palace

What happens

- Banquo is suspicious of Macbeth's actions but is too tempted by the Witches' prophecy for his own heirs to challenge Macbeth.
- Macbeth announces that he is holding a royal feast and asks Banquo to make sure he attends as he is the guest of honour.
- Macbeth knows his position of power depends on no one challenging him, so he fears Banquo, who knows too much.
- Macbeth hires two murderers to kill Banquo and Fleance while they are outside the castle.

Activity 11

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

**BOTH
MURDERERS**

We are resolved, my lord.

MACBETH I'll call upon you straight, abide within.

Exeunt Murderers

It is concluded: Banquo thy soul's flight,
If it find Heaven, must find it out tonight.

Exit

Questions to Activity 11

1. What has been decided regarding Banquo? (1)
 2. Give TWO reasons why this has been decided. (2)
 3. Where does Macbeth see Banquo again? (1)
 4. Describe Macbeth's reaction upon seeing Banquo later in the play. (1)
 5. Why does Macbeth react like this? (1)
- /6/**

Answers to Activity 11

1. To murder him and his son Fleance. ✓ (1)
 2. The witches have promised him that his children would be kings ✓ and Macbeth wants to prevent it. ✓
Macbeth believes Banquo knows too much because he was with him when the witches told him that he would be king ✓. Macbeth wants to prevent the truth from emerging. ✓ (2)
 3. At the banquet / feast. (1)
 4. He is terrified. (1)
 5. Banquo appears as a ghost. / He feels guilty (1)
- /6/**

Act 3, Scene 2

Macbeth discloses to his wife that he feels threatened that Banquo is still alive.

Setting: A room in the castle at Forres.

What happens

- When alone, waiting for an opportunity to talk to her husband, Lady Macbeth reveals her unhappiness in a soliloquy.
- She says that she would rather be dead (like Duncan) than live in such uncertainty and constant fear.
- Lady Macbeth has finally gained some understanding of the effects of their murderous deed – her previous reaction of ‘What is done, is done’, has now turned into: ‘What is done cannot be undone’ - she is troubled by a guilty conscience and realises that the consequences of the murder are irreversible.
- When her husband comes in, she hides her own distress in an effort to comfort him, she does not want to burden him with her problems too.
- Ironically Macbeth too envies the dead Duncan, previously he envied him when he was the king – he (Macbeth) wanted to be king then. Now he would rather be dead, like Duncan, than to live in fear and uncertainty.
- Macbeth lives in constant fear of losing his own life; he finds it impossible to sleep, and he has terrible nightmares while Duncan is at peace.
- Macbeth has come to fear all the things Duncan was exposed to at the beginning of the play:
 - a treacherous attack by a fellow countryman using a dagger, a sword or poison – he killed Duncan using a dagger.
 - he fears a revolt/rebellion in his own country – like the treacherous attack that Macdonwald and the Thane of Cawdor launched on the Scottish army.
 - he fears an onslaught on Scotland from a foreign country – like the attack by Sweno, King of Norway, at the start of the play.
- Macbeth most probably fears an attack from England (because that is where Malcolm has fled to).
- Macbeth tells his wife to be exceptionally friendly towards Banquo that night at the party – well-knowing that Banquo would be dead by then.
- He seemingly tries to protect her, not wanting to burden her with more evil deeds – he could see that she was suffering. He believes that she will approve of the murder.
- Macbeth calls down darkness to hide the murder.

Activity 12

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

LADY M	Come on, Gentle, my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks; Be bright and jovial among your guests tonight.	
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 he while, that we Must lave our honours in these flattering streams, And make our faces vizards to our hearts, Disguising what they are.	5 10
LADY M	You must leave this.	
MACBETH	O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife! Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives,	
LADY M	But in them nature's copy's not eterne.	
MACBETH	There's comfort yet; they are assailable; Then be thou jocund. Ere the bat hath flown His cloistered 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.	15 20
LADY M	What's to be done?	
MACBETH	Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling night, Scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day, And with thy bloody and invisible hand Cancel and tear to pieces that great bond Which keeps me pale! Light thickens, and the crow Makes wing to the rooky wood. Good things of day begin to droop and drowse, Whiles night's black agents to their preys do rouse, Thou marvell'st at my words, but hold thee still; Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill. So, prithee, go with me. Act 3, Scene 3 (lines 26-56)	25 30

Questions to Activity 12

1. Explain Macbeth's words in your own words: 'O, full of scorpions is my mind...' (2)
 2. Why is he in such a state? (2)
 3. What is this 'knowledge' that Lady Macbeth should be 'innocent of'? (2)
 4. What is the figure of speech used in 'tender eye of pitiful Day'? How has it been used effectively? (2)
 5. What has changed in Macbeth's relationship with his wife and why? (3)
- /11/**

Answers to Activity 12

1. I am confused, ✓ my mind is full of negative things. ✓ (2)
 2. He killed the King after he has been honoured by the very same king ✓ / his response to the prophecies of three Witches / his bad intentions which make him hire murderers to ensure the prophecies come true. ✓ (2)
 3. The plan to kill Banquo ✓ and hiring murderers. ✓ (2)
 4. Personification. ✓ It is used effectively because it emphasizes how urgently Macbeth want night to fall to hide his evil intentions/deeds. ✓ (2)
 5. They are not as close as before. He called her 'his dearest partner in greatness' but now he keeps her at a distance ✓, call her 'dearest chuck', that is, his woman but not his partner. Macbeth is so intent on being 'safe' as king that he cannot focus on anything else. He is also feeling guiltier and guiltier for being a murderer, but has to go on 'killing to make the first murder worth the penalty. ✓ He does not know if Lady Macbeth would want him to kill again, so he does not want to involve her. ✓ (3)
- /11/**

Act 3, Scene 3



Banquo is killed and his son Fleance escapes
Setting: A wood near the palace at Forres

What happens

- Macbeth has sent a third murderer to make sure the other two do their job.
- They attack Banquo and kill him.
- But Banquo has shouted to Fleance to run away and he escapes.

Activity 13

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Banquo is killed and his son escapes

1ST MURDERER But who did bid thee join us?

3RD MURDERER Macbeth.

2ND MURDERER He needs not our mistrust; since he delivers

Our offices, and what we have to do, To the direction just.

Questions to Activity 13

1. Why does Macbeth hire the 3rd murderer? (2)
 2. Explain why Macbeth wants to kill Banquo and his son. (2)
- /4/**

Answers to Activity 13

1. He wants to make sure that Banquo and his son are killed/he does not trust the two murderers (2)
 2. He wants to kill Banquo and his son so that the prophecy of the three witches is not fulfilled. (2)
He does not trust Banquo because they were together when they met the three witches. (2)
- /4/**

Act 3, Scene 4

At Forres, Macbeth and his wife welcome the thanes of Scotland to the banquet, and Macbeth behaves strangely
Setting: A hall at the Palace at Forres

What happens

- Macbeth greets his guests at the feast and tells them to sit in order of importance.
- One of the murderers arrives at the door and reports that Banquo is dead but that Fleance has escaped.
- Lady Macbeth tries to keep Macbeth playing the good host.
- Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost sitting in the chair reserved for Banquo.
- Macbeth speaks to the ghost but no one else can see it so they think he is mad.
- Lady Macbeth tries to excuse her husband's behaviour to the guests.
- When Macbeth sees the ghost again, he reveals too much in his speech.
- Lady Macbeth hurries the guests out of the room.
- Macbeth declares that he will seek out the Witches to find out what will happen to him in the future, he does not care whether it will be good or bad news, as long as he knows.

Activity 14

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

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	This of this, good peers,	5
MACBETH	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 th'Hyrcean 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 mock'ry hence. [Exit Ghost of Banquo] Why so, being gone, I am a man again.-Pray you, sit still.	10 15
LADY	You have displac'd the mirth, broke the good meeting	
MACBETH	meeting With most admir'd disorder.	20
MACBETH	Can such things be, And overcome us like a summer's cloud, Without our special wonder? You make me strange Even to the disposition that I owe, When now I think you can behold such sights And keep the natural ruby of your cheeks When mine is blanch'd with fear.	25
ROSS	What sights, my lord?	
LADY	I pray you speak not; he grows worse and worse.	
MACBETH	I pray you speak not; he grows worse and worse. Question enrages him. At once, good night. Stand not upon the order of your going, But go at once.	30
LENNOX	Good night, and better health Attend his majesty.	
[Act 3, Scene 4]		

Questions to Activity 14

1. Choose the correct answer from the options given.
The word 'Avaunt' in line 1 means to ...
A stay
B remain
C be gone
D linger (1)
2. If you were the stage director of this play, what tone of voice would you tell Macbeth to use when saying these lines 1-4 ('Avaunt and quit ... dost glare with.')? Give a reason for your answer. (2)
3. Quote a line from the extract to prove that Macbeth is the only person who sees the ghost. (1)
4. Refer to lines 21-22 ('Can such things ... a summer's cloud,')
(a) Identify the figure of speech used in these lines. (1)
(b) Explain how this figure of speech contributes to the tone and meaning of Macbeth's words. (2)
5. Explain how Lady Macbeth tries to cover for her husband's strange behaviour. (3)
6. Discuss critically how Macbeth gets himself in a point of no return as he utters such words later in this scene. (4)
7. In your opinion how does Lady Macbeth contribute to the theme of evil? (3)

/17/

Answers to Activity 14

1. C be gone ✓ (1)
2. Terror/fear with a trembling voice, because seeing a ghost can be very frightening/abnormal. ✓ (2)
3. 'What sights, my lord?' ✓ (1)
4. Simile. ✓ Seeing a ghost is overwhelming/ too heavy and is out of Macbeth's control, so he compares this to the summer's cloud that casts a shadow or even brings storm. ✓✓ (3)
5. She tells them to sit, continue with their meal and not take notice of Macbeth as it will cause him offence. ✓✓ She says that Macbeth has been suffering from fits such as these since he was a young man. ✓ (3)

Act 3, Scene 5

The Witches meet the Queen of Witches, Hecate.

Setting: The heath/ open space

What happens

- The Witches meet the Queen of the Witches, Hecate.
- She is cross that the other three Witches have been dealing with Macbeth and have left her out of it.
- She tells them to meet Macbeth again and she will prepare a spell.
- She believes that Macbeth only uses them to get what he wants, he is not into evil for the sake of evil, like they are.
- Being able to see into the future, they are aware of Macbeth's plan to visit them, and they decide to plot his downfall.
- They plan to show Macbeth visions that will lead to his undoing.
- They plan to give him a false sense of security so that he will become irresponsible and cause his own downfall.

Activity 15

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Hecate tells the three witches that Macbeth is going to come and ask about his future

HECATE Have I not reason, beldams as you are,
Saucy and overbold? How did you dare
To trade and traffic with Macbeth
In riddles and affairs of death;
And I, the mistress of your charms,
The close contriver of all harms,
Was never called to bear my part,
Or show the glory of our art?

5

Questions to Activity 15

1. Why is Hecate angry? (1)
2. Do you agree that the theme of power that is also implied here? Support your answer. (3)

/4/

Answers to Activity 15

1. She was not consulted when the three Witches met Macbeth. (1)
2. Yes. Hecate feels that she should be in control of everything. This is also the case with Macbeth who consults the witches so that he can be in control of everything including his future. (3)

/4/

Act 3 Scene 6

Lennox talks to another nobleman about the tyranny of Macbeth

Setting: Forres the palace

What happens

- Lennox speaks to another lord – he hints sarcastically at a number of seemingly inexplicable deaths that all, in some way, implicate Macbeth:
 - Duncan's murder – attributed to his sons as they fled the country;
 - Banquo's murder – he came home after dark, and Fleance fled. He sarcastically asks if it implies that Fleance killed his father.
 - The unnecessary, irrational murder of the two guards before they could be questioned about Duncan's death.
- The Lord informs Lennox that Macduff has fled to England (where Malcolm already is) in an effort to convince Malcolm to rise against Macbeth and, with the help of the English king, claim his rightful position as king of Scotland.
- Macbeth is aware of this and is preparing for battle.
- This scene summarises everything that has already happened and depicts the growing opposition of the forces of good against Macbeth's rule.

Activity 16

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Enter Lennox and another Lord
 LORD *The son of Duncan,*
 From whom this tyrant holds the due birth,
 Lives in the English court, and is received
 Of the most pious Edward with such grace

Questions to Activity 16

1. Who are Duncan's sons? (2)
 2. In the following list of people, who does not fit the description of 'pious'? (1)
 - (a) Macbeth
 - (b) Banquo
 - (c) Duncan
 - (d) Macduff
 3. According to the Lord, how are the conditions in Scotland? Support your answer. (3)
 4. According to this passage, is there a hope for a better Scotland? Support your answer. (3)
- /9/**

Answers to Activity 16

1. Malcolm and Donaldbain (2)
 2. (a) Macbeth (1)
 3. Conditions in Scotland are very bad. The Lord says conditions should change to how they were before so that they can have meat on their tables / can sleep at night / can enjoy feasts and banquets without threat to be killed/honour deserving people. (3)
 4. Yes. When Macbeth is deposed, conditions will be back to normal. Unfortunately, Macbeth will not easily leave his throne – which means there will be a battle. Things can only get better after the tyranny of Macbeth. (3)
- /9/**

Act 4, Scene 1

Macbeth consults with the Witches about his future. He hears that Macduff has fled.
 Setting: a dark cave

What happens

- The Witches are brewing up a spell.
- Macbeth goes to the witches and rudely orders them to disclose to him what the future holds for him.
- Macbeth asks them to use their powers to tell him his future.
- They ask if he wants to hear it or see it in his visions.
- He asks to see it and three apparitions appear and speak in riddles.
- Macbeth chooses to believe that he is safe at least as king but demands to know if Banquo's heirs will inherit the crown.
- As the Witches disappear, Lennox arrives and reports that Macduff has fled to England.
- Macbeth is ready to act against Macduff's family now.

Activity 17

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

[The witches are brewing a spell.]

1ST WITCH:	Thrice the brinded cat hath mewed.	
2ND WITCH:	Thrice and once the hedge-pig whined.	
3RD WITCH:	Harpier cries 'Tis time, 'tis time!	
1ST WITCH:	Round about the cauldron go. In the poisoned entrails throw. Toad, that under cold stone Days and nights has thirty-one Sweltered venom sleeping got, Boil thou first i'th' charmed pot.	5
WITCHES:	Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble.	10
2ND WITCH:	Fillet of a fenny snake, In the cauldron boil and bake, Eye of newt and toe of frog, Wool of bat and tongue of dog, Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting, Lizard's leg and howlet's wing, For a charm of powerful trouble, Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.	15
WITCHES:	Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble.	20
3RD WITCH:	Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf, Witches' mummy, maw and gulf Of the ravined salt-sea shark, Root of hemlock digged i'th' dark	25

Questions to Activity 17

1. Judging by the ingredients, what sort of spell is being brewed by the Witches? Substantiate your answer. (2)
2. There is a repetition in lines 10-11 and 20-21, explain why these lines are repeated in the extract. (2)
3. In this scene the spirits that appear seem to be reassuring Macbeth that he is all-powerful and cannot be harmed, yet they are warning him too. What are the three prophecies? (3)
4. What is the final answer to Macbeth's question about the Witches' promise of the Witches to Banquo? (1)
5. At the end of this scene what effect do these visions have on Macbeth? (2)

/10/

Answers to Activity 17

1. Something foul/evil – all the things they put in the cauldron are associated with bad omens or evil. (2)
2. The lines appear as a chorus where all the witches call the spirits of darkness, the lines emphasize the main purpose for creating the spell which is to create havoc or destroy peace among humankind. (2)
3. They say that Macduff is his enemy and a dangerous one; that no man born naturally can harm Macbeth; and that Macbeth will not be beaten in battle until Birnam Wood moves and comes to Dunsinane hill. (3)
4. That Banquo will have many kings among his heirs. (1)
5. Macbeth is aware that trusting the Witches previously has damned him to hell, but he is determined to do exactly as he wishes from now on. He will start by punishing Macduff by killing his wife and children while Macduff is away in England. He wants to act quickly before he calms down (line154). ✓✓ (2)

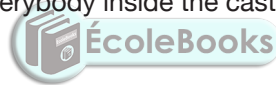
[10]

Act 4, Scene 2

Lady Macduff and her children are killed by Macbeth's murderers
Setting: Macduff's castle at Fife

What happens

- Lady Macduff is angry with her husband for being away at this time and leaving them alone and unprotected.
- Ross tells her as he leaves that no one is to be trusted but that her husband is wise and good.
- Lady Macduff talks to her son as if Macduff is already dead, and her son's answers are wise beyond his years.
- A messenger arrives to tell Lady Macduff to run away but there is no time for that as murderers come in and kill both mother and son and continue to kill everybody inside the castle.



Activity 18

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

[Enter a Messenger]

MESS:	Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known, Though in your state of honour I am perfect. I doubt some danger does approach you nearly; If you will take a homely man's advice, Be not found here; hence, with your little ones. To fright you thus, methinks I am too savage, To do worse to you were fell cruelty, Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you! I dare abide no longer.	5
L MACDUFF:	Whither should I fly? I have done no harm. But I remember now I am in this earthly world, where to do harm Is often laudable, to do good sometime Accounted dangerous folly. Why, then, alas, Do I put up that womanly defence, To say I have done no harm? What are these faces?	10
Enter Murderers		
1ST MURDERER:	Where is your husband?	
L MACDUFF:	I hope in no place so unsanctified Where such as thou mayst find him.	15
1ST MURDERER:	He's a traitor.	20

SON: Thou liest, thou shag-haired villain!

1ST MURDERER: What, you egg! (stabbing him)

Young fry of treachery!

SON: He has killed me, mother.

Run away, I pray you!

Dies.

Exit Lady Macduff, crying 'Murder!' Exeunt murderers, following her.

25

Answers to activity 18

1. The messenger comes to warn Lady Macduff of a looming danger. ✓ (1)
 2. Lady Macduff must quickly run away with her children as frightening as it is to make such a suggestion. ✓ (1)
 3. Macbeth rules by terror, he is threatened by any opposition or different opinion, ✓ he targets Macduff or his family as an enemy or traitor/ Macbeth is vindictive towards people that he considers as powerful. ✓ (2)
 4. (a) Defiance/ Disobedience/ Rebellion. ✓ (1)
 - (b) Macduff's son is defiant because he knows that his father is a good man, not a traitor and the one who must be insulted is the murderer not his father. ✓ (1)
 5. Open-ended. (1)
- Yes.**
- The murderer is acting on the information that is given to him by an authority (a king), so he does not doubt the fact that Macduff is a traitor.
 - The murderer has no conscience nor empathy towards innocent person as his duty is to destroy or kill when instructed to do so.
 - The fact that Macduff has fled the country makes it look like he is guilty of being a traitor.
- No.**
- Macduff did not do any act of disloyalty except being suspicious of Macbeth's cruel activities.
 - The murderer just acts recklessly to insult Macduff's son who defends his father's reputation.
 - Macbeth is the one who is a real traitor as he has betrayed/killed king Duncan. ✓✓✓ (3)

[9]

Act 4, Scene 3

Ross tells Macduff of the death of his wife and son
Setting: Outside King Edward's castle in England

What happens

- Macduff and Malcolm are discussing what has become of their country under Macbeth's rule, and what to do about it.
- Malcolm tests Macduff's honesty, loyalty and goodness and finds him to be true.
- Ross arrives and, at first, he cannot tell Macduff that his wife and children have been murdered. Macduff mourns his wife and children.
- Macduff mourns the deaths of his wife and children.
- Macduff decides to be the one to kill Macbeth, the English army is ready to set off to Scotland to end Macbeth's rule.

Activity 19

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide
The expected length of your answer.
[Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty]

MACDUFF	I am not treacherous.	
MALCOLM:	But Macbeth is. A good and virtuous nature may recoil In an imperial charge. But I shall crave your pardon; That which you are, my thoughts cannot transpose. Angels are bright still, though the brightness fell. Though all things foul would wear the brows of grace, Yet grace must still look so.	5
MALCOLM:	Perchance even there where I did find my doubts. Why in that rawness left you wife and child, Those precious motives, those strong knots of love Without leave-taking? I pray you, Let not my jealousies be your dishonours, But mine own safeties. You may be rightly just, Whatever I shall think.	10
MACDUFF:	Bleed, bleed, poor country. Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure, For goodness dare not check thee; wear thou wrongs, The title is affeered. Fare thee well, lord. I would not be the villain that thou think'st For the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp, And the rich East to boot.	15
MALCOLM:	Be not offended, I speak not as in absolute fear of you. I think our country sinks beneath the yoke; It weeps, it bleeds, and each new day a gash Is added to her wounds. I think withal There would be hands uplifted in my right,	20
		25
[Act 4, Scene 3]		

Questions to Activity 19

1. Why does Malcolm pretend to be everything he is not to test Macduff's reaction? (2)
 2. What is the difference between being a good king and being a tyrant, or bad king, based on what Malcolm pretends to be and what he actually is? (2)
 3. What qualities does Macduff show in this scene that make him heroic? (2)
- [6]**

Answers to Activity 19

- 1 Malcolm wants to find out how Macduff feels about Scotland, Macbeth and Malcolm himself.
The country is so disordered that nothing is as it seems. ✓✓ (2)
- 2 A good king wants order and justice in the land, rules fairly and offers rewards where they are due.
He is loyal to his country before himself. ✓ A tyrant seeks personal power at any cost.
He follows his own desires with no thought for other people's feelings. ✓ (2)
- 3 Macduff is patriotic. ✓ (2)
He has his country's interests at heart and is prepared to put things right if he can. ✓ [6]

Act 5, Scene 1

Lady Macbeth is sleep walking and is attended by a doctor and her gentlewoman.
Setting: Dunsinane: a room in the castle

What happens

- Lady Macbeth's gentlewoman has called the doctor to watch Lady Macbeth because she has been sleepwalking.
- Lady Macbeth enters, asleep but talking about their crimes and rubbing her hands.
- Lady Macbeth betrays her guilt and remorse in her sleepwalking and the doctor is worried about her.

Activity 20

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.



[The doctor is worried about Lady Macbeth's sickness]

DOCTOR:	This disease is beyond my practice, yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds.	
LADY M:	Wash your hands; put on your nightgown; look not so pale; I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out on's grave.	5
DOCTOR:	Even so?	
LADY M:	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.	10
DOCTOR:	Will she go now to bed?	
GENTLE WOMAN:	Directly.	
DOCTOR:	Foul whisperings are abroad; unnatural deeds Do breed unnatural troubles. Infected minds To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets; More needs she the divine than physician. God, God forgive us all! Look after her; Remove from her the means of all annoyance, And still keep eyes upon her. So good night. My mind she has mated and amazed my sight; I think, but dare not speak.	15
GENTLE WOMAN:	Good night, good doctor.	20
		Exeunt. [Act 5, Scene 1]

Questions to Activity 20

1. Refer to line 1 ('This disease is beyond my practice')
What does Lady Macbeth suffer from? (1)
 2. Refer to lines 4-6 ('Wash your hands... out on's grave')
If you were the director of this play, what would you tell Lady Macbeth to do when saying these lines?
State TWO points. (2)
 3. Refer to lines 13-14 ('Foul whisperings are...breed unnatural troubles')
Explain the meaning of these lines. (2)
 4. Why is following statement FALSE.
Lady Macbeth's sickness will be cured by the doctor. (1)
 5. Even in her sleepwalking talk, which is full of terror at what has been done, Lady Macbeth shows glimmers of her stronger self. Quote TWO examples of this in the extract. (2)
 6. In your opinion is the doctor justified in saying 'I think, but dare not speak' in line 21?
Discuss your view. (3)
- [11]

Answers to Activity 20

1. Lady Macbeth suffers from insomnia (mentally deranged, having sleep-walking nightmares). ✓ (1)
2. Lady Macbeth should use hand gestures to show washing of hands. ✓
She should look sympathetic to show her plea to the pale image she is addressing. ✓
She should stand with open arms to reassure her image not to fear. ✓ (2)
3. The doctor means that unacceptable/ evil actions result into dire consequences that are not easy to explain at face value. ✓✓/ Deeper secrets have a way of coming out to be known even when not told. ✓✓ (2)
4. Lady Macbeth is troubled by her conscience and her mind, not by her body, so she needs God's help, not a doctor's. ✓ (1)
5. 'Wash your hands; ✓ put on your night-gown; ✓ look not so pale' ✓ (line 4)/ 'What's done cannot be undone' ✓ (line 9). (2)
6. Open-ended. (2)

Yes.

The doctor like everyone is afraid of what Macbeth can do to him if he speaks of what he has heard or seen. The truth that is revealed by disturbed Lady Macbeth frightens the doctor who thinks he must not judge her but pray for her. The doctor feels empathy for Lady Macbeth as he cannot cure her.

No.

The doctor is a coward who decides to keep quiet about Lady Macbeth's evil acts. He is only concerned about his welfare and decides not to put his nose in other people's businesses. ✓✓✓ (3)

[11]

Act 5, Scene 2

The thanes and other allies have formed an army and are on their way to meet the approaching English army near Birnam Wood

Setting: On the road to Birnam Wood near Dunsinane

What happens

- The thanes who are joining Malcolm, Macduff and their allies are going to meet the army near Birnam Wood.
- Macbeth is at Dunsinane castle preparing for battle.
- Angus says no one follows Macbeth out of love but only follows him because they are instructed to.

Activity 21

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer
[The Thanes plan on meeting the army near Birnam Wood]

MENTEITH:	The English power is near, led on by Malcolm, His uncle Siward and the good Macduff; Revenge burn in them; for their dear causes Would to the bleeding and grim alarm Excite the mortified man.	5
ANGUS:	Near Birnam Wood Shall we meet them; that way are they coming.	
CAITHNESS:	Great Dunsinane he strongly fortifies. Some say he's mad; others, that lesser hate him, Do call it valiant fury; but, for certain, He cannot buckle his distempered cause Within the belt of rule.	10
ANGUS:	Now does he feel His secret murders sticking on his hands; Now minutely revolts upbraid his faith-breach. Those he commands move only in command, Nothing in love. Now does he feel his title Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe Upon a dwarfish thief.	15

[Act 5, Scene 2]

Questions to Activity 21

1. Refer to line 1
To whom does 'English power' refer? (1)
2. In this scene, some names remind us of the Witches' prophecies. Mention any TWO. (2)
3. Refer to lines 3-5 ('Revenge burn in...the mortified man')
Explain why 'revenge burn in' Malcolm and Macduff. (2)
4. Refer to lines 17-19 ('Now does he... a dwarfish thief')
(a) Identify the figure of speech used in these lines. (1)
(b) Explain why this figure of speech is relevant to Macbeth. (2)

[8]

Answers to Activity 21

1. The soldiers/troops. ✓ (1)
2. Macduff, ✓ Birnam Wood/Dunsinane. ✓ (2)
3. Malcolm's father (Duncan) was murdered by Macbeth. ✓
Macduff's family (wife and son) were killed by murderers ordered by Macbeth. ✓
OR
Both Malcolm and Macduff's loved ones were killed by Macbeth or through his instruction to murderers. ✓✓ (2)
4. (a) Simile. ✓ (1)
(b) Angus thinks that Macbeth feels that his kingship gained from usurping Duncan is threatened by the opposition and he cannot measure up to Duncan's kingship, so he is like a dwarfish thief that stole the giant's robe. ✓✓ (2)

[8]

Act 5, Scene 3

Macbeth prepares to fight and Lady Macbeth is declared sick by the doctor

Setting: A room in Macbeth's castle at Dunsinane

What happens

- Macbeth reassures himself that he is not as vulnerable as he seems because of what the Witches revealed to him.
- The doctor reports that Lady Macbeth is not physically sick, she has a troubled mind and needs the help of a priest.
- Macbeth is becoming more unpredictable by the minute; he feels old and tired of life.
- More and more people get the courage to desert him.
- He, insanely, clings to the predictions of the witches:
 - he will not be defeated until Birnam Wood marches against him and Dunsinane;
 - he does not fear Malcolm at all, he clings to the prediction that nobody born naturally from a woman will be able to kill him.
 - he does not for a moment consider Macduff as a treat.
- The doctor informs Macbeth that Lady Macbeth's illness is something he cannot cure – she is not physically sick; she has a troubled mind.
- Macbeth asks the doctor to give her a medicine that will erase her bad memories.
- He also asks the doctor to diagnose and cure Scotland's disease. Ironically Macbeth is the disease of Scotland
 - only his death will cure the country.



Activity 22

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

[Macbeth reassures himself that he is not vulnerable]

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 a 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 a Servant.
The Devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!
Where got'st thou that goose look?
Enter a Servant.
The Devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!
Where got'st thou that goose look?

5

10

15

SERVANT: There is ten thousand-

MACBETH Geese, villain?

SERVANT: Soldiers, sir.

[Act 5, Scene 3]



Questions to Activity 22

- 1 In this extract Macbeth recalls the witches' prophecies.
Explain why these prophecies are so important to him. (2)
 - 2 Refer to lines 11-12 ('The Devil damn...that goose look?')
What do these lines reveal about Macbeth's character?
Explain your answer. (2)
 - 3 Do you admire Macbeth for his willingness to fight until the end?
Discuss your view. (3)
- [10]**

Answers to Activity 22

- 1 Macbeth trusts the witches to know about his fate, he is disillusioned by the witches' prophecies ✓ – he is sure of his immortality because in real life a forest cannot not move and he does not know any person who isn't born of a woman. ✓ (2)
- 2 Macbeth is evil/arrogant. ✓ He does not take the servant's fear as a serious warning for him to start worrying but makes a mockery of the servant's paleness/wishes the servant to be burned in hell for being a coward. ✓ (2)
- 3 Open-ended.

Yes.

Macbeth's bravery is a sign of a true leader and a heroic soldier who is determined to never give up or run away from the enemy.

His determination shows that he is not a coward and is willing to face the consequences of his actions.

He is a true example of a tragic hero who accepts his fate boldly.

No.

Macbeth's willingness to fight shows his arrogance and heartless nature.

He should give up and make peace with Malcolm and Macduff.

Macbeth's willingness to fight proves his endless ambition to destroy people. ✓✓✓ (3)

Act 5, Scene 4

Malcolm leads the army to attack Macbeth

Setting: Scottish countryside near Dunsinane.

What happens

- The two armies: the Scottish rebels and the approaching English army, meet at Dunsinane.
- It must have been a considerable number of soldiers: the English force alone consists of 10 000 soldiers and each rebel thane has his own group of soldiers too.
- Malcolm, takes control of the combined army; he orders each soldier to chop off a tree branch and carry it in front of him. This will conceal the exact numbers of their army and mislead the enemy – Macbeth's army.
- The audience realises the witches' deception – Birnam wood is indeed marching towards Dunsinane, therefore Macbeth will be defeated in this battle.
- We are again reminded that both noble and the common people have turned against Macbeth; his troops do not serve him out of loyalty or respect, but simply because they are afraid of him.
- In fact, so many of his own people have deserted him that he was forced to hire the same Irish mercenaries (used by Macdonwald) he fought at the start of the play.

Activity 23

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

MALCOLM: Cousins, I hope the days are near at hand That chambers will be safe.	
MENTEITH: We doubt it nothing.	
SIWARD: What wood is it before us?	
MENTEITH: The wood of Birnam.	5
MALCOLM: Let every soldier hew him down a bough, And bear't before him. Thereby shall we shadow The numbers of our host, and make discovery Err in report of us	
SOLDIERS: It shall be done.	10
SIWARD: We learn no other but the confident tyrant Keeps still in Dunsinane, and will endure Our setting down before't.	
MALCOLM: 'Tis his main hope; For where there is advantage to be given, Both more and less have given him the revolt, And none serve with him but constrained things Whose hearts are absent too.	15
[Act 5, Scene 4]	



Questions to Activity 23

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. What is the wording of the prophecy regarding Birnam Wood? | (1) |
| 2. Does the prophecy come true? Explain. | (2) |
| 3. What other advantage does Malcolm's army have over Macbeth's? | (2) |
| | [5] |

Answers to Activity 23

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. 'Macbeth shall never vanquished be until Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill Shall come against him' (Act 4, Scene1, lines 92-94). ✓ | (1) |
| 2. It is not normally possible for a wood to move, so it seems true that Macbeth will not be defeated. But Malcolm's clever plan for the soldiers to carry branches of the forest's trees makes it seem as if the wood is moving and so the prophecy comes true. ✓✓ | (2) |
| 3. Malcolm's soldiers want to fight for him. ✓ Macbeth's soldiers are not loyal to him and they wish they were not involved. ✓ | (2) |
| | [5] |

Act 5, Scene 5

Lady Macbeth dies, and Macbeth's castle is attacked
Setting: Dunsinane within the castle

What happens

- Macbeth still relies, and rightly so, on the strength of his castle. It would have been almost impossible to lay siege to Dunsinane.
- Macbeth is emotionally exhausted; he sees life as brief and meaningless.
- Macbeth is informed that his wife has died – we do not yet know how she died. It is only at the end of the play that we are told that she might have committed suicide.
- Macbeth's response to the news of his wife's death, 'She should have died hereafter', sounds callous. He seems to be emotionally drained and unable to react.
- However, the news that Birnam Wood is approaching the castle gets a real emotional response from Macbeth.
- Macbeth realises that the witches have deceived him. He shows something of his old courage when he decides to go out and at least die fighting.
- This is a return to the old Macbeth, the fearless soldier.

Activity 24

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on each.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Lady Macbeth dies	
SEYTON: It is the cry of women, my good lord.	
	<i>Exit.</i>
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.	5
	Re-enter Seyton. Wherefore was that cry
SEYTON: The Queen, my lord, is dead.	10
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.	15
	20
[Act 5, Scene 5]	

Questions to Activity 24

- 1 Explain Macbeth's calm reaction to the noise of women crying. (1)
 - 2 What is his first reaction when he hears that the crying is about his wife's death? (2)
 - 3 When Macbeth describes his feelings about life, he uses the image of an actor. Explain this image. Start with: 'Just as an actor...' (1)
 - 4 Use your own words to explain how Macbeth feels about the story one acts out in life. (1)
 - 5 What is your attitude to Macbeth at this point? Do you feel sorry for him, angry with him, or glad that he has got what he deserves? Give reasons for your answer. (3)
- [8]

Answers to Activity 24

- 1 Macbeth says that is a terrible noise that would once have frightened the wits out of him but he has seen so much horror that he is not even startled by it. (1)
- 2 He says that she should have died at some future date because he has no time to grieve for her at the present time because he has a battle to fight. (2)
- 3 Just as an actor plays his part in a play for a while and then leaves the stage, so is a man born, lives his life and then disappears. (1)
- 4 He feels that the story is a stupid one, full of noise and drama but no meaning. (1)
- 5 Own opinion. Some may feel sorry for him for losing his partner at a time when he really needs her support; others angry that he has caused this whole mess; others that, having chosen the path he did, he deserves to suffer the consequences. (3)

[8]

Act 5, Scene 6

The army is divided into divisions to attack Macbeth
Setting: Outside Dunsinane castle

What happens

- Malcolm's army has now reached the castle – no opposition is offered and they take control of Dunsinane.
- Malcolm starts using the royal plural – he is the real king and has taken control over his forces.
- Macbeth's forces are in disarray. He has no clear attack plan – he relied so heavily on the witches' predictions and the strength of his castle, that he found it unnecessary to plan a proper defence of his castle.
- The theme of appearance vs reality undergoes an interesting change when Malcolm orders his soldiers to drop their branches.
- The time of deception has come to an end – no more false appearances.
- From now on fair will be fair and foul will be foul.

Activity 25

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

MALCOLM: Now near enough; your leavy screens throw down,
And show like those you are.
The Soldiers throw down their branches.
You, worthy uncle,
Shall, with my cousin, your right noble son,
Lead our first battle. Worthy Macduff, and we,
Shall take upon's what else remains to do,
According to our order.

SIWARD: Fare you well,
Do we but find the tyrant's power tonight,
Let us be beaten, if we cannot fight.
MACDUFF: Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath,
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death. Exeunt.
[Act 5, Scene 6]

10

Questions to activity 25

1. Refer to lines 4-8 ('You, worthy uncle... to our order').
What do these lines reveal about Malcolm's character? Substantiate your answer. (2)
 2. What significant role do trumpets play in a battle field? (1)
- [3]**

Answers to activity 25

1. Malcolm is mature. ✓ He knows that a good leader delegates duties/ divides the work through giving people different roles to play. ✓ Malcolm is exceptional. ✓ He uses the expertise of Siward to lead the first battle. ✓ (2)
 2. Trumpets give important commands to troops. ✓ (1)
- [3]**

Act 5, Scene 7

The battle is raging- young Siward dies in the hands of Macbeth.
Setting: Outside Dunsinane castle

What happens

- Macbeth realises he is outnumbered and his army will be defeated.
- He tests the Witches' final prophecy by challenging to single combat any man not born of woman.
- Young Siward challenges him and he is killed.
- Macduff enters alone and swears to take revenge for his family's death and fight Macbeth himself.
- Many of Macbeth's army have changed sides and are fighting for Malcolm.

Activity 26

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

Another part of field. Alarums. Enter Macbeth.
MACBETH : They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly,
But bear-like I must fight the course. What's he
That was not born of woman? Such a one
Am I to fear, or none.

[Act 5, Scene 7]

Questions to Activity 26

- 1 What is the effect of the killing of young Siward on Macbeth? (1)
 - 2 Macduff is single-mindedly focused on finding and killing Macbeth. Explain the reason for this. (2)
- [3]**

Answers to Activity 26

1. It strengthens his belief in the witches' promise that no man born naturally from a woman will be able to kill him – he feels even more invincible than before. ✓ (1)
 2. Macbeth ordered the murder of his wife and children and he believed he will forever be haunted by their ghosts if he fails to kill Macbeth personally. ✓✓ (2)
- [3]**

Act 5, Scene 8

- Macduff and Macbeth finally meet face to face, and Macbeth is killed.
- Setting: Another part of the battlefield

What happens

- Macbeth does not, like Roman soldiers, consider the possibility of committing suicide rather than being captured.
- He would rather continue to kill as many people as possible – he remains cruel and vindictive.
- Macduff enters and challenges Macbeth to a duel.
- Macbeth does not want to fight him, not because he is afraid of him, but because he feels guilty about the murder of his wife and children – he does not want to kill him too (he believes he will be able to because of the witches' prediction).
- Macduff informs Macbeth that he has NOT been naturally born from a woman. Only now does Macbeth realise the full deception of the witches.
- He refuses to fight Macduff, but is not prepared to surrender either – he refuses to accept 'young' Malcolm as his king.
- They fight – Macbeth is killed and decapitated/beheaded by Macduff.

Activity 27

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer.

MACBETH: Why should I play the Roman fool, and die
On mine own sword? Whiles I see lives, the gashes
Do better upon them
Enter Macduff.

MACDUFF: Turn, hell-hound, turn!

MACBETH: Of all men else I have avoided thee.
But get thee back; my soul is too much charged
With blood of thine already.

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

[Act 5, Scene 8]

5

Questions to Activity 27

1. Explain Macbeth's decision not to 'play the Roman fool' (2)
 2. Why does Macbeth refuse to fight Macduff? Give TWO reasons. (2)
 3. Macbeth makes a startling discovery about Macduff as they fight. State what it is. (1)
- [5]**

Answers to Activity 27

1. Roman soldiers would rather commit suicide than being captured by the enemy. Macbeth does not even consider suicide; he is still consumed by a blood-lust and decides to continue killing as many people as possible (2)
 2. He is consumed by feelings of guilt at the murder of Macduff's wife and children: he feels he has spilled enough of the Macduff family's blood. He still clings to the promise of the witches that nobody born naturally of a woman will be able to kill him, he firmly believes that he will kill Macduff and he does not want to – this is true remorse. (2)
 3. Macbeth discovers that Macduff was not of woman born but untimely ripped from his mother's womb. ✓ (1)
- [5]**

Act 5, Scene 9

Malcolm becomes the true heir to the throne.
Setting: Dunsinane

What happens

- Old Siward hears about his son's death; he finds comfort in the knowledge that his son has died fighting for a good cause.
 - he describes him as God's soldier, implying that their fight against Macbeth has God's seal of approval.
- Malcolm is the true heir to the throne; Macbeth is a usurper.
- Macduff, carrying Macbeth severed/cut off head, enters and hails Malcolm as the new king.
- Malcolm takes control and promises to do a few things that will finally restore order to Scotland:
 - he plans to reward the Thanes who remained loyal to him and fought with him by making them Earls
 - a higher title;
 - he promises to recall all the people that had to flee the country to escape Macbeth's murder spree;
 - he plans to find and punish everybody who remained loyal to Macbeth and fought with him.
- He also says that it seems as if Lady Macbeth has committed suicide.
- He invites everybody to join him at Scone where he will be crowned.

Activity 28

1. Read the extract below and answer the questions set on it.
2. The number of marks allocated to each question serves as a guide to the expected length of your answer
[Re-enter Macduff, with Macbeth's head.]

MACDUFF: Hail, King! For so thou art. Behold, where stands
The usurper's cursed head. The time is free.

I see thee compassed with thy kingdom's pearl,
That speak my salutation in their minds,
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine.

5

ALL: Hail, King of Scotland!
Hail, King of Scotland!

Flourish.

MALCOLM: We shall not spend a large expense of time,
Before we reckon with your several loves
And make us even with you. My Thanes and
kinsmen,
Henceforth be Earls, the first that ever Scotland
In such an hour named. What's more to do,
Which would be planted newly with the time,
As calling home our exiled friends abroad
That fled the snares of watchful tyranny,
Producing forth the cruel ministers
Of this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen,
Who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands
Took off her life; this, and what needful else
That calls upon us by the grace of Grace
We will perform in measure, time and place.
So thanks to all at once and to each one,
Whom we invite to see us crowned at Scone.

10

15

20

Flourish. Exeunt.

[Act 5, Scene 9]

Questions to Activity 28

- 1 Discuss the irony in old Siward's comment that their victory was 'cheaply' won. (2)
 - 2 Malcolm refers to the Macbeths as 'this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen'.
Do you agree with his perception? Give reasons. (4)
 - 3 Refer to Malcolm's words in the extract. Draw out THREE SIMILARITIES between Malcolm and King Duncan. (3)
 - 4 Do you agree with the fact that the first Thane of Cawdor /Macdonwald's actions are unacceptable just like Macbeth's? Discuss your view. (3)
- [12]**

Answers to Activity 28

1. It is an example of dramatic irony. The audience knows that his son is one of those that have died, but he does not know it yet. ✓ (2)
2. His judgement of Lady Macbeth as being devil-like is maybe a bit harsh. Even though she asked the evil spirits to take her over completely and manipulated her husband into the murder of Duncan she is not truly devilish. If she had been completely evil, she would not have been haunted by her guilty conscience. Macbeth, on the other hand, deserves the title of being a butcher, especially after he ordered the murder of Macduff's family and decides to continue on his murder streak. He was also more than that, he suffers greatly and shows true remorse just before he is killed by Macduff. (4)
3. Malcolm like King Duncan shows gratitude towards the brave Thanes. ✓
He does not waste time but guides the Thanes on the next steps to be taken just like King Duncan did earlier in the play. ✓ Malcolm invites people to the celebrations as he will be crowned, King Duncan also invited others when going to celebrate in Macbeth's castle when he crowned him the Thane of Cawdor. ✓ (3)
4. Open-ended. (3)

Yes.

- Macdonwald betrays King Duncan by joining the Norwegian army and he is described as 'most disloyal traitor', so he deserves the king's pronouncement on his death.
- Macbeth as the Thane of Cawdor also betrays the king in the worst manner, he hosts the king and kills him on his sleep.
- Both Thanes deserve to be killed for treachery.

No.

- Macdonwald's actions are punishable but he does not deserve to be killed, disowning him of the title is sufficient enough.
- Macbeth's actions are a result of the witches' prophecies, he has been a loyal and trustworthy soldier until he met the weird sisters. ✓✓✓ (3)

[12]



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