

Act 1: Exam style questions

AQA

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth has just been told that he has been made Thane of Cawdor, shortly after hearing the witches make their prophecies.

MACBETH

[*Aside*] Two truths are told,
As happy prologues to the swelling act
Of the imperial theme.— I thank you, gentlemen. —
This supernatural soliciting
Cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill,
Why hath it given me earnest of success,
Commencing in a truth? I am Thane of Cawdor.
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion,
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs
Against the use of nature? Present fears
Are less than horrible imaginings.
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man that function
Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is,
But what is not.

5

10

15

BANQUO

Look how our partner's rapt.

MACBETH

If chance will have me king, why chance may crown me
Without my stir.

01 Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's ambition.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Act 2: Exam style questions

AQA

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

Macbeth

Read the following extract from *Macbeth* Act 2 Scene 2, and answer the question that follows it.
At this point in the play, Macbeth has just murdered King Duncan.

LADY MACBETH

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

MACBETH

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

5

LADY MACBETH

What do you mean?

MACBETH

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

10

LADY MACBETH

Who was it, that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,
You do unbend your noble strength to think
So brain-sickly of things. Go get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there. Go carry them and smear
The sleepy grooms with blood.

15

MACBETH

I'll go no more.
I am afraid to think what I have done;
Look on't again, I dare not.

20

LADY MACBETH

Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead
Are but as pictures; 'tis the eye of childhood
That fears a painted devil.

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01 Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as an unstable character.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Act 3: Exam style questions

AQA

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth has been crowned king but Banquo suspects Macbeth killed Duncan.

BANQUO

Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all
As the weird women promised, and I fear
Thou played'st most foully for't. Yet it was said
It should not stand in thy posterity.

But that myself should be the root and father
Of many kings. If there come truth from them –
As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine –
Why by the verities on thee made good,
May they not be my oracles as well
And set me up in hope? But hush, no more.

5

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*Sennet sounded. Enter Macbeth, as King, Lady Macbeth as Queen,
Lennox, Ross, Lords, and Attendants*

MACBETH

Here's our chief guest.

LADY MACBETH

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

MACBETH

Tonight we hold a solemn supper sir,
And I'll request your presence.

15

BANQUO

Let your highness
Command upon me, to the which my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie
Forever knit.

20

MACBETH

Ride you this afternoon?

BANQUO

Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH

We should have else desired your good advice,
Which still hath been both grave and prosperous,
In this day's council: but we'll take tomorrow.
Is't far you ride?

25

BANQUO

As far, my lord, as will fill up the time
'Twixt this and supper: go not my horse the better.
I must become a borrower of the night
For a dark hour or twain.

30

01 Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Macbeth and Banquo.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth and Banquo at this point in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth and Banquo's relationship in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

What is this
That rises like the issue of a king
And wears upon his baby-brow the round
And top of sovereignty? 20

ALL

Listen, but speak not to't.

THIRD APPARITION

Be lion-mettled, proud, and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are.
Macbeth shall never vanquished be until 25
Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him.

Descends

MACBETH

That will never be:
Who can impress the forest, bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? Sweet bodements, good. 30

Rebellious dead, rise never till the wood
Of Birnam rise, and our high-placed Macbeth
Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath
To time and mortal custom. Yet my heart
Throbs to know one thing. Tell me, if your art 35
Can tell so much, shall Banquo's issue ever
Reign in this kingdom?

ALL

Seek to know no more.

01 Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth and his anxieties.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth and his interactions with the witches at this point in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth and his interactions with the witches in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Act 4: Exam style questions

AQA

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

Macbeth

Read the following extract from *Macbeth* Act 4 Scene 1, and answer the question that follows it.

At this point in the play, Macbeth has sought out the witches to learn his fate, but they have decided to trick him. They show him visions.

FIRST APPARITION

Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth: beware Macduff,
Beware the Thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

Descends

MACBETH

Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks;
Thou hast harped my fear aright. But one word more,—

FIRST WITCH

He will not be commanded. Here's another,
More potent than the first.

5

Thunder. Second Apparition, a bloody child

SECOND APPARITION

Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth!

MACBETH

Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.

SECOND APPARITION

Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn
The power of man, for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.

10

Descends

MACBETH

Then live, Macduff, what need I fear of thee?
But yet I'll make assurance double sure
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live,
That I may tell pale-hearted fear it lies,
And sleep in spite of thunder.

15

Thunder. Third Apparition, a child crowned, with a tree in his hand

Act 5: Exam style questions

AQA

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

Macbeth

Read the following extract from *Macbeth* Act 5 Scene 1, and answer the question that follows it.

At this point in the play, Lady Macbeth is beginning to show that the guilt of Duncan's murder is affecting her health. She is sleepwalking.

Enter Lady Macbeth, with a taper

GENTLEWOMAN

Lo you, here she comes. This is her very guise and, upon my life, fast asleep.
Observe her, stand close.

DOCTOR

How came she by that light?

GENTLEWOMAN

Why, it stood by her. She has light by her continually, 'tis her command.

DOCTOR

You see, her eyes are open.

5

GENTLEWOMAN

Ay, but their sense is shut.

DOCTOR

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

GENTLEWOMAN

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

LADY MACBETH

Yet here's a spot.

10

DOCTOR

Hark; she speaks. I will set down what comes from her to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

LADY MACBETH

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

15

DOCTOR

Do you mark that?

LADY MACBETH

The Thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now? — What, will these hands ne'er be clean?— No more o' that, my lord, no more o' that. You mar all with this starting.

DOCTOR

Go to, go to; you have known what you should not.

20

GENTLEWOMAN

She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that. Heaven knows what she has known.

LADY MACBETH

Here's the smell of the blood still; all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O, O, O!

25

DOCTOR

What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.

GENTLEWOMAN

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

DOCTOR

Well, well, well —

GENTLEWOMAN

Pray God it be, sir.

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.

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LADY MACBETH

Wash your hands, put on your night-gown, look not so pale. I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out on's grave.

01 Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth's state of mind.

Write about:

- how the guilt of past deeds is affecting Lady Macbeth at this point in the play
- how Lady Macbeth behaved earlier in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]