



The Thomas Adams
School



English Department

Class workbook

Macbeth

THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL

English Department

GCSE English Literature

MACBETH

Example Questions Task Bank

(for students)



M I C H A E L F A S S B E N D E R M A R I O N C O T I L L A R D
M A C B E T H

William Shakespeare's

Macbeth

Contents

- Act One Scene One - Setting
- Act One Scene Five – Lady Macbeth
- Act One Scene Seven – Relationship between the Macbeths
- Act Two Scene One – Macbeth
- Act Two Scene Two – Gender
- Act Two Scene Three – Appearance versus Reality
- Act Three Scene One – Banquo
- Act Three Scene Two – Macbeth
- Act Three Scene Four – Supernatural
- Act Four Scene One – Greed
- Act Four Scene Three – Revenge
- Act Four Scene Three – Macduff
- Act Five Scene One – Lady Macbeth
- Act Five Scene Three – Role reversal of the Macbeths
- Act Five Scene Eight – Power and Ambition

Use these questions to practice and prepare for your English Literature Paper 1 examination.

You should write a mixture of full responses and model paragraphs for your teacher to check over.

A01	<p style="text-align: center;">Read, understand and respond to texts.</p> <p>Develop a personal response to the text; Discuss your thoughts on the characters; Use quotes to support your ideas.</p>	(12 marks)
A02	<p style="text-align: center;">Analyse the language, form and structure used to create meanings and effects, using relevant terminology where appropriate.</p> <p>Explain how your quote supports your point; Zoom in on specific words and analyse their effect; Identify techniques such as simile, metaphor, personification etc. when appropriate.</p>	(12 marks)
A03	<p style="text-align: center;">Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.</p> <p>Comment on the writer's intention (what does he want us to think about?); Discuss how different readers may be affected by what happens; Show awareness of how context impacts the plot.</p>	(6 marks)
A04	<p style="text-align: center;">Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation</p> <p>Spell all character names and key words correctly; Use paragraphs and discourse markers to structure your essay clearly; Attempt to use a range of ambitious vocabulary choices.</p>	(4 marks)

William Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

This is the opening scene of the play featuring the Witches to set the scene.

A desert place.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches

First Witch

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Second Witch

When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

Third Witch

That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath.

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth.

First Witch

I come, Graymalkin!

Second Witch

Paddock calls.

Third Witch

Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Exeunt

Starting with this scene, explain how far you think Shakespeare uses setting to create atmosphere in his play.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents setting in this scene
- how Shakespeare presents setting in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

At this point in the play Lady Macbeth has just received a letter from her husband explaining the predictions of the Witches and the fact that one prediction has come true.

Inverness. Macbeth's castle.

Enter LADY MACBETH, reading a letter

LADY MACBETH

'They met me in 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 have I 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.'

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be
What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature;
It is too full o' the 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 crown'd withal.

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

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

At this point in the play Lady Macbeth is trying to convince her husband to murder the King.

MACBETH

We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.

LADY MACBETH

Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and valour
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'
Like the poor cat i' the adage?

MACBETH

Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.

LADY MACBETH

What beast was't, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And, to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:
They have made themselves, and that their fitness now
Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this.

Starting with this scene, explain how Shakespeare presents the relationship between the Macbeths.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents their relationship in this scene.
- how Shakespeare presents their relationship in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
A04 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

At this point in the play Macbeth is deciding whether or not to commit to murdering the King.

MACBETH

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one halfworld
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtain'd sleep; witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings, and wither'd murder,
Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace.
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

A bell rings

I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

Exit

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

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
A04 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

At this point in the play Macbeth has just returned from murdering the King.

LADY MACBETH

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

MACBETH

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

LADY MACBETH

What do you mean?

MACBETH

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

LADY MACBETH

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

MACBETH

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

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. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;
For it must seem their guilt.

Starting with this scene, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a powerful figure.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

At this point in the play the murdered King Duncan has just been discovered.

MACDUFF

Awake, awake!
Ring the alarum-bell. Murder and treason!
Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!
Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,
And look on death itself! up, up, and see
The great doom's image! Malcolm! Banquo!
As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprites,
To countenance this horror! Ring the bell.

Bell rings. Enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

What's the business,
That such a hideous trumpet calls to parley
The sleepers of the house? speak, speak!

MACDUFF

O gentle lady,
'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:
The repetition, in a woman's ear,
Would murder as it fell.

Enter BANQUO

O Banquo, Banquo,
Our royal master 's murder'd!

LADY MACBETH

Woe, alas!
What, in our house?

BANQUO

Too cruel any where.
Dear Duff, I prithee, contradict thyself,
And say it is not so.

Re-enter MACBETH and LENNOX, with ROSS

MACBETH

Had I but died an hour before this chance,
I had lived a blessed time; for, from this instant,
There 's nothing serious in mortality:
All is but toys: renown and grace is dead;
The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees
Is left this vault to brag of.

Starting with this scene, explain how Shakespeare presents the theme of appearance versus reality.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents appearance versus reality in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents appearance versus reality in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

At this point in the play Macbeth is worried about Banquo's suspicions.

Forres. The palace.

Enter BANQUO

BANQUO

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

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

MACBETH

Here's our chief guest.

LADY MACBETH

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

MACBETH

To-night we hold a solemn supper sir,
And I'll request your presence.

BANQUO

Let your highness
Command upon me; to the which my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie
For ever knit.

MACBETH

Ride you this afternoon?

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

Write about:

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

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

At this point in the play Macbeth has ordered Banquo's murder to avoid being accused of King Duncan's murder.

MACBETH

We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it:
She'll close and be herself, whilst our poor malice
Remains in danger of her former tooth.
But let the frame of things disjoint, both the
worlds suffer,
Ere we will eat our meal in fear and sleep
In the affliction of these terrible dreams
That shake us nightly: better be with the dead,
Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace,
Than on the torture of the mind to lie
In restless ecstasy. Duncan is in his grave;
After life's fitful fever he sleeps well;
Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison,
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing,
Can touch him further.

LADY MACBETH

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

MACBETH

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

LADY MACBETH

You must leave this.

MACBETH

O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.

LADY MACBETH

But in them nature's copy's not eterne.

Starting with this scene, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a villain.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

At this point in the play Banquo has been killed and the Macbeths are holding a banquet in their own honour.

LADY MACBETH

Are you a man?

MACBETH

Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that
Which might appal the devil.

LADY MACBETH

O proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear:

This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts,
Impostors to true fear, would well become

A woman's story at a winter's fire,
Authorized by her grandam. Shame itself!
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a stool.

MACBETH

Prithee, see there! behold! look! lo!

how say you?

Why, what care I? If thou canst nod, speak too.
If charnel-houses and our graves must send
Those that we bury back, our monuments
Shall be the maws of kites.

GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes

LADY MACBETH

What, quite unmann'd in folly?

MACBETH

If I stand here, I saw him.

LADY MACBETH

Fie, for shame!

MACBETH

Blood hath been shed ere now, i' the olden time,
Ere human statute purged the gentle weal;
Ay, and since too, murders have been perform'd
Too terrible for the ear: the times have been,
That, when the brains were out, the man would die,
And there an end; but now they rise again,
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,
And push us from our stools: this is more strange
Than such a murder is.

Starting with this scene, explain how Shakespeare presents guilt in the play.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents guilt in this scene
- how Shakespeare presents guilt in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

At this point in the play *Macbeth* has decided to revisit the Witches for a second prediction.

Second Witch

By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.
Open, locks,
Whoever knocks!

Enter MACBETH

MACBETH

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags!
What is't you do?

ALL

A deed without a name.

MACBETH

I conjure you, by that which you profess,
Howe'er you come to know it, answer me:
Though you untie the winds and let them fight
Against the churches; though the yesty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up;
Though bladed corn be lodged and trees blown down;
Though castles topple on their warders' heads;
Though palaces and pyramids do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure
Of nature's germens tumble all together,
Even till destruction sicken; answer me
To what I ask you.

First Witch

Speak.

Second Witch

Demand.

Third Witch

We'll answer.

First Witch

Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths,
Or from our masters?

MACBETH

Call 'em; let me see 'em.

Starting with this scene, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the Witches as evil.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the Witches in this scene
- how Shakespeare presents the Witches in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

At this point in the play Macbeth has arranged for Macduff's family to be killed as a warning.

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;
And here from gracious England have I offer
Of goodly thousands: but, for all this,
When I shall tread upon the tyrant's head,
Or wear it on my sword, yet my poor country
Shall have more vices than it had before,
More suffer and more sundry ways than ever,
By him that shall succeed.

MACDUFF

What should he be?

MALCOLM

It is myself I mean: in whom I know
All the particulars of vice so grafted
That, when they shall be open'd, black Macbeth
Will seem as pure as snow, and the poor state
Esteem him as a lamb, being compared
With my confineless harms.

MACDUFF

Not in the legions
Of horrid hell can come a devil more damn'd
In evils to top Macbeth.

MALCOLM

I grant him bloody,
Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful,
Sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin
That has a name: but there's no bottom, none,
In my voluptuousness: your wives, your daughters,
Your matrons and your maids, could not fill up
The cistern of my lust, and my desire
All continent impediments would o'erbear
That did oppose my will: better Macbeth
Than such an one to reign.

Starting with this scene, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macduff as a hero.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macduff in this scene
- how Shakespeare presents Macduff in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth has been made aware of the approaching armies.

MACBETH

I'll put it on.
Send out more horses; skirr the country round;
Hang those that talk of fear. Give me mine armour.
How does your patient, doctor?

Doctor

Not so sick, my lord,
As she is troubled with thick coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest.

MACBETH

Cure her of that.
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?

Doctor

Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

MACBETH

Throw physic to the dogs; I'll none of it.
Come, put mine armour on; give me my staff.
Seyton, send out. Doctor, the thanes fly from me.
Come, sir, dispatch. If thou couldst, doctor, cast
The water of my land, find her disease,
And purge it to a sound and pristine health,
I would applaud thee to the very echo,
That should applaud again.--Pull't off, I say.--
What rhubarb, cyme, or what purgative drug,
Would scour these English hence? Hear'st thou of them?

Doctor

Ay, my good lord; your royal preparation
Makes us hear something.

MACBETH

Bring it after me.
I will not be afraid of death and bane,
Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.

Starting with this scene, explain how Shakespeare presents the role reversal of the Macbeths.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the Macbeths in this scene.
- how Shakespeare presents the Macbeths in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

William Shakespeare: *Macbeth*

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

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

MACBETH

Why should I play the Roman fool, and die
On mine own sword? 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!

They fight

MACBETH

Thou lovest labour:
As easy mayst thou the intrenchant air
With thy keen sword impress as make me bleed:
Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests;
I bear a charmed life, which must not yield,
To one of woman born.

MACDUFF

Despair thy charm;
And let the angel whom thou still hast served
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd.

MACBETH

Accursed be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cow'd my better part of man!
And be these juggling fiends no more believed,
That palter with us in a double sense;
That keep the word of promise to our ear,
And break it to our hope. I'll not fight with thee.

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

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
A04 [4 marks]

