

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

In this extract, Macbeth is preparing for battle against Malcolm and Macduff when a messenger comes to tell him Lady Macbeth has died.

<p><b>MACBETH</b> I have almost forgot the taste of fears; The time has been, my senses would have cooled To hear a night-shriek and my fell of hair Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir As life were in't. I have supped full with horrors; Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts Cannot once start me. Wherefore was that cry?</p> <p><b>SEYTON</b> The queen, my lord, is dead.</p> <p><b>MACBETH</b> 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.</p>
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How far does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a strong character in the play?

Write about:

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

Read the following extract from Act 1 scene 3 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Macbeth and Banquo have just met the witches for the first time.

**BANQUO** Cousins, a word, I pray you.  
**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 smothered in surmise, and nothing is,  
But what is not.  
**BANQUO** Look how our partner's rapt.  
**MACBETH** If chance will have me king, why chance may crown me  
Without my stir.  
**BANQUO** New honours come upon him  
Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould,  
But with the aid of use.  
**MACBETH** Come what come may,  
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

How far does Shakespeare present Macbeth as being a victim of the witches?

Write about:

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

Read the following extract from Act 2 scene 2 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Lady Macbeth is waiting for Macbeth to return from killing King Duncan when he enters with the daggers.

Enter LADY MACBETH

**LADY MACBETH** That which hath made them drunk, hath made me bold;  
What hath quenched them, hath given me fire.  
*[An owl shrieks]*

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.

*Enter MACBETH [with two bloody daggers]*

**MACBETH** Who's there? What ho?

**LADY MACBETH** Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,  
And 'tis not done; th'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. My husband?

**MACBETH** I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

**LADY MACBETH** I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.  
Did not you speak?

**MACBETH** When?

**LADY MACBETH** Now.

**MACBETH** As I descended?

**LADY MACBETH** Ay.

**MACBETH** Hark, who lies i'th'second chamber?

**LADY MACBETH** Donalbain.

**MACBETH** This is a sorry sight.

**LADY MACBETH** A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

How far does Shakespeare present Lady Macbeth as being a controlling character?

Write about:

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

Read the following extract from Act 1 scene 1 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the three witches discuss when they will meet Macbeth.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three WITCHES

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

**SECOND WITCH** When the hurly-burly'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*

How far does Shakespeare present the witches as a powerful influence on Macbeth?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the Witches in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the witches and Macbeth in the play as a whole.

Read the following extract from Act 2 scene 2 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Macbeth has just killed Duncan but has returned with the daggers.

<b>MACBETH</b>	I'll go no more. I am afraid to think what I have done; Look on't again, I dare not.	
<b>LADY MACBETH</b>	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.	<i>Exit</i>
	<i>Knock within</i>	
<b>MACBETH</b>	Whence is that knocking? How is't with me, when every noise appals me? What hands are here? Ha: they pluck out mine eyes. Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood Clean from my hand? No: this my hand will rather The multitudinous seas incarnadine, Making the green one red.	

How far does Shakespeare present Lady Macbeth as being in control?

Write about:

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

Read the following extract from Act 5 scene 1 and then answer the question that follows.  
In this extract, Lady Macbeth is being watched over by a doctor and maid.

LADY MACBETH Yet here's a spot.  
DOCTOR Hark, she speaks; I will set down what comes from her to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.  
LADY MACBETH Out, damned spot! Out, I say! One, two. Why then 'tis time to do't. Hell is murky. Fie, my lord, fie, a soldier, and afeard? What need we fear? Who knows it, when none can call our power to account? Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?  
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.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
DOCTOR Even so?  
LADY MACBETH 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. *Exit*  
DOCTOR Will she go now to bed?

How far do you agree that *Macbeth* is a play all about guilt?  
Write about:

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

Read the following extract from Act 5 scene 3 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Macbeth learns that the English forces are on their way.

**MACBETH** Bring me no more reports, let them fly all;  
Till Birnam Wood remove to Dunsinane,  
I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm?  
Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know  
All mortal consequences have pronounced me thus:  
'Fear not, Macbeth, no man that's born of woman  
Shall e'er have power upon thee.' Then fly false thanes  
And mingle with the English epicures;  
The mind I sway by and the heart I bear  
Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear.

*Enter SERVANT*

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

**SERVANT** There is ten thousand –

**MACBETH** Geese, villain?

**SERVANT** Soldiers, sir.

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

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

**MACBETH** Take thy face hence!

*[Exit Servant]*

How far does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a bold character?

Write about:

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

