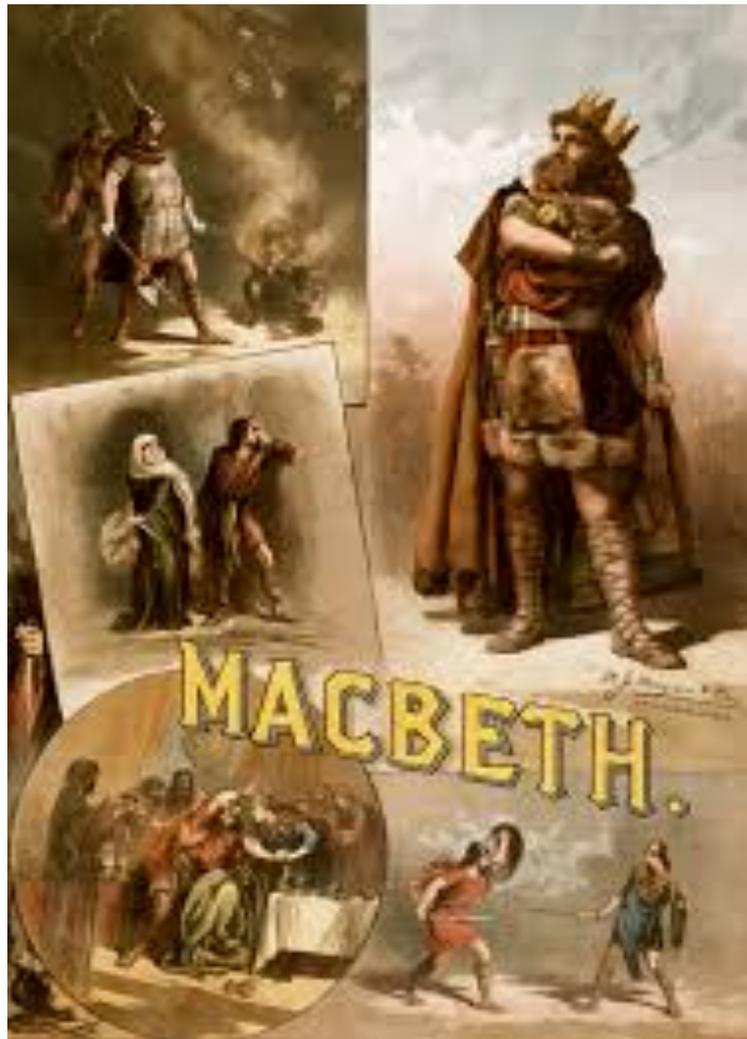


Macbeth paragraph practice booklet



A booklet with questions you might find linked to the AQA GCSE specification on Macbeth, with example paragraphs of how you might answer each question. The example paragraphs should be used as something to inspire you to write your own based on how you've been taught by your teacher. They may even be something you disagree with and wish to argue against! Each of the example paragraphs focus on 'bullet point one' and you may want to vary your own paragraphs with reference to 'bullet point two'-'elsewhere in the play.' This can be used as a way of practicing how you analyse language but does not provide sufficient space for you to fully explore your ideas in the necessary quantity required in a formal exam. Lastly, this booklet does not consider the entire structure of an essay with formal introductions and conclusions.

All questions used have been sourced from @Team_English1 on Twitter. Since they were downloaded over a year ago I am unable to credit the teacher who sourced them.

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3-4	1:7-Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Lady Macbeth as a powerful woman.
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13-14	5:1-Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a changed woman.
15-16	5:5-Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents regret.
17-20	Challenge tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What does the opening segment of the play reveal about the supernatural?2. Explore how ambitious Macbeth is as a character.3. How does Macbeth's feelings for his wife develop over the course of the play?4. Does Lady Macbeth deserve any sympathy?5. What is Macbeth's view on life at the end of the play?

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.

At this point in the play, Macbeth is speaking to Banquo. Macbeth and Banquo meet the witches on their way home from war.

MACBETH	So foul and fair a day I have not seen.
BANQUO	How far is't call'd to Forres? What are these So wither'd and so wild in their attire, That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth, And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught That man may question? You seem to understand me, By each at once her choppy finger laying Upon her skinny lips: you should be women, And yet your beards forbid me to interpret That you are so.
MACBETH	Speak, if you can: what are you?
First Witch	All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Glamis!
Second Witch	All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!
Third Witch	All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!
BANQUO	Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear Things that do sound so fair?

1

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the Witches in *Macbeth* to be evil.

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents the Witches in this extract
- How far you think Shakespeare presents the Witches as evil in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are considering whether to kill Duncan.

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.

MACBETH

If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail!
But screw your courage to the sticking-place,
And we'll not fail

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Lady Macbeth as a powerful woman?

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
[AO4 4 marks]

Section A: Shakespeare

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

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are talking. Lady Macbeth is persuading Macbeth to agree to the plan to kill King Duncan.

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.

MACBETH

If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail!
But screw your courage to the sticking-place,
And we'll not fail.

0 1

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

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents attitudes to bravery in this speech
- How Shakespeare presents bravery in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Section A: Shakespeare

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

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 and Lady Macbeth are speaking. Macbeth has just murdered Duncan at his castle.

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.

[Exit. Knocking within]

MACBETH Whence is that knocking?
 How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
 What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine eyes.
 Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
 Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
 The multitudinous seas in incarnadine,
 Making the green one red.

[Re-enter LADY MACBETH]

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

0 1

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth to have troubled thoughts.

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents Macbeth's troubled thoughts in this speech
- How Shakespeare presents troubled thoughts in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Section A: Shakespeare

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

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are speaking. They are discussing their feelings after the murder of Duncan and Macbeth's fear now that he is King.

LADY MACBETH

Nought's had, all's spent,
Where our desire is got without content:
'Tis safer to be that which we destroy
Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.

Enter MACBETH

How now, my lord! why do you keep alone,
Of sorriest fancies your companions making,
Using those thoughts which should indeed have died
With them they think on? Things without all remedy
Should be without regard: what's done is done.

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.

0

1

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to be unhappy.

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents unhappiness in this extract
- How Shakespeare presents unhappiness in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Section A: Shakespeare

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

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 visits the Witches to demand answers to his questions.

Second Witch	By the pricking of my thumbs, Something wicked this way comes. Open, locks, Whoever knocks!
<i>Enter MACBETH</i>	
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.

0 1 Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a changed man.

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
- How Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a changed man in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Section A: Shakespeare

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

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, the Doctor and Gentlewoman are watching Lady Macbeth as she sleepwalks.

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. Oh, oh, oh!

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.

0 1

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

Write about:

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

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer one question from this section on your chosen text.

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play, Macbeth is facing the English army and has just found out that Lady Macbeth has died.

MACBETH

I have almost forgot the taste of fears;
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir
As life were in't: I have supp'd full with horrors;
Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts
Cannot once start me.

Re-enter SEYTON

Wherefore was that cry?

SEYTON

The queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH

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

0 1

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents regret.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]

