

# Knowledge Organiser

*Macbeth – William Shakespeare*



Here to meet  
with **MACBETH**

disorder  
disturmy



Fair's foul  
foul is fair

one you spirits  
unsex me



Take  
my  
milk  
for  
gall  
Nor heaven  
peep

il great  
leban's  
A  
sary  
Physic



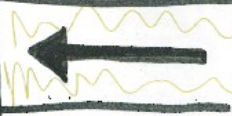
Men stuck in  
my throat

will all the perfumes  
of Arabia not  
sweeten  
this  
little  
hard?



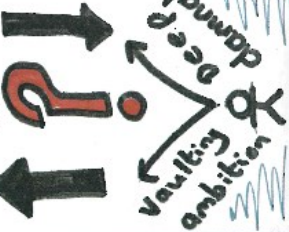
Out damned  
spot!  
MURK

**HERO**



Bellona's  
Bridegroom  
Valour's  
Minton

Commends the ingredients  
of our  
poisoned  
chalice  
to our  
own  
lips



vaulting  
ambition  
vaulting  
deaf  
dandies

The earth...did shake



**SACRILEGE**



Life's but a  
candle  
Out brief  
The yellow leaf  
walks but a  
shadow

Why do you  
draw  
me  
in



So much more  
the man  
we shall  
not fail

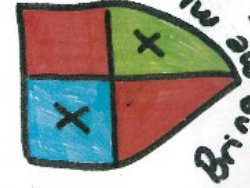


Like the  
poor cat in  
the adage  
a  
screw of courage  
the sticking place  
False face must  
hide... false heart

fullof scorpions is  
my mind  
My  
eternal  
jewel  
Fruitless crown  
Blood will have blood



**SEYTON**



Bring me my  
arms

Prince of  
Cumberland

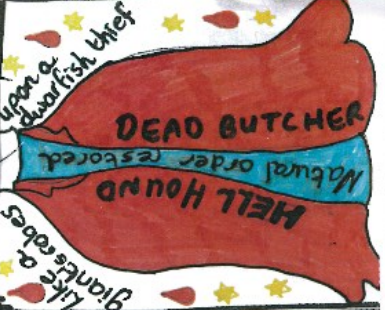


Stars hide  
your fires

Is this  
a  
dagger?



I am in blood stepped  
in so far w  
I can't  
beaver back  
by the roots  
The castle  
I will  
surprise  
Macduff



## One sentence summaries

	Act 1	Act 2	Act 3	Act 4	Act 5
Scene 1	The witches gather on a heath in a storm, plotting to meet Macbeth after the battle against Norway ends.	Macbeth hallucinates a dagger on his way to Duncan's chamber, where he murders him (off-stage).	Macbeth becomes increasingly power-hungry and paranoid about Banquo, due to the witches' prophecies. Macbeth hires murderers to kill Banquo and his son, Fleance	The witches prophesy to Macbeth once again - that he cannot be killed by one of woman born, that he cannot be killed until Dunsinane forest moves, and that he should beware Macduff. Macbeth feels confident, believing he is undefeatable.	Lady Macbeth is seen sleepwalking and hallucinating blood on her hands. She is plagued by guilt and has gone mad.
Scene 2	A sergeant tells Duncan of Macbeth and Banquo's bravery and masculine violence in the battle.	Macbeth returns from the murder and is plagued by guilt, fearing he is damned. Lady Macbeth feels no guilt.	Macbeth expresses that his mind is disturbed to Lady Macbeth, and tells her to keep out of his dark business.	Lady Macduff and her children are murdered by Macbeth's assassins.	We learn that the English army is approaching Macbeth, and that some of his thanes have deserted him.
Scene 3	The witches prophesy Macbeth and Banquo's powerful futures.	The porter jokes that he is guarding the gates of hell. Duncan's body is discovered, and Macbeth and Lady Macbeth pretend they are innocent.	Banquo is murdered by assassins, while Fleance escapes.	In England, Macduff learns of the murder of his wife and children, and plots to bring an English army to defeat him.	Macbeth dismisses reports of the attack, believing himself to be untouchable. In private, he fears he is losing his power.
Scene 4	Duncan makes Macbeth Thane of Cawdor, and Macbeth's ambition is sparked.	Ross explains that nature has been overturned since Duncan's death, and explains how Malcolm has fled to England. Macbeth has been made King of Scotland.	At a banquet, Macbeth hallucinates the ghost of Banquo after learning that Fleance was not murdered.		The English army cut down trees from Birnam Wood to disguise themselves as they walk towards Macbeth's castle.
Scene 5	Lady Macbeth plots to manipulate Macbeth into killing Duncan to achieve her own ambition		Hecate plots with the witches to confuse Macbeth further by delivering him more prophecies.		Macbeth learns that Lady Macbeth is dead. He reflects on life, expressing that it is pointless. Macbeth learns that the prophecy about Birnam Wood has come true.
Scene 6	Duncan visits the castle of the Macbeths, and finds it pleasant, despite the audience knowing he is about to die.		We learn from Lennox that Macduff has fled to England and is helping Malcolm to overthrow Macbeth.		Malcolm's army prepare to attack Macbeth.
Scene 7	Lady Macbeth manipulates Macbeth into killing Duncan.				Macbeth confidently declares he will fight because he believes he cannot be killed. He kills Young Siward after he challenges him.
Scene 8					Macduff and Macbeth meet on the battlefield, where Macduff reveals that he was born by C-Section. The final prophecy has come true, and Macbeth is killed.
Scene 9					Malcolm rides onto the battlefield and restores order as he declares the new King of Scotland.

## Top 25 quotes list

- Fair is foul and foul is fair, hover through the fog and filthy air. **Witches Act 1 Scene 1**
- For brave Macbeth (well he deserves that name) disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel, which smoked with bloody execution **Captain Act 1 Scene 2**
- Till he unseamed him from the nave to the chops and fixed his head upon the battlements. **Captain Act 1 Scene 2**
- As sparrows eagles or hare the lion **Act 2 Scene 2**
- So fair and foul a day I have not seen. **Macbeth Act 1 Scene 3**
- Why do I yield to the suggestion whose horrid image doth unfix my hair and make my seated heart knock at my ribs? **Macbeth Act 1, Scene 3**
- Stars, hide your fires; let not light see my black and deep desires. **Macbeth Act 1 Scene 4**
- I fear thy nature; it is too full o' the milk of human-kindness **Lady Macbeth, Act 1 Scene 5**
- 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. **Lady Macbeth, Act 1 Scene 5**
- Unsex me here, and fill me from the crown to the toe top-full of direst cruelty. **Lady Macbeth, Act 1 Scene 5**
- look like the innocent flower, But be the serpent under't. **Lady Macbeth Act 1 Scene 5**
- His virtues will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against the deep damnation of his taking-off **Macbeth Act 1, Scene 7**
- I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself. **Macbeth, Act 1 Scene 7**
- When you durst do it, then you were a man **Lady Macbeth Act 1 Scene 7**
- Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand? **Macbeth, Act 2 Scene 2**
- Upon my head they have placed a fruitless crown, and put a barren sceptre in my grip. **Macbeth Act 3 Scene 1**
- Be innocent in the knowledge, dearest chuck. **Macbeth Act 3 scene 2**
- Full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife **Macbeth Act 3 scene 2**
- I think our country sinks beneath the yoke; It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash Is added to her wounds **Malcolm Act 4 scene 3**
- Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh, oh, oh! **Lady Macbeth Act 5 scene 1**
- 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? **Macbeth Act 5 scene 3**
- 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 **Macbeth Act 5, scene 5**
- I bear a charmed life **Macbeth Act 5 Scene 8**
- And be these juggling fiends no more believed, That palter with us in a double sense; **Macbeth Act 5 Scene 8**
- Dead butcher and his fiend-like Queen **Act 5 scene 11**

# Key extracts

## ACT I

### SCENE I. 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.

**Pathetic fallacy:** Thunder highlights the potential danger and evilness of the witches.

**Trochaic meter:** Shakespeare switches between trochaic meter for the witches and iambic pentameter for higher status characters like the Macbeths. In trochaic meter, the emphasis is placed on the first syllable followed by unstressed. This creates an unusual rhythm to the speech and coupled with the rhyming couplets creates the impression of spells or curses. Thus, Shakespeare sets the witches apart from other characters and creates the impression they are evil and supernatural.

The witches speech shifts between each other allowing the audience to see them as one entity who work in unison. This makes the audience feel distanced and uneasy because of their unusual behaviour.

Here the witches mean whatever is fair (good) for man is foul (horrid) + them and vice versa. However, this quote also highlights a keep theme in the play that nothing is what it seems. Things that on the surface seem good will actually turn out to be evil (Macbeth). As an audience, we must prepare to be deceived.

# Key extracts

## 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 villanies of nature  
Do swarm upon him--from the western isles  
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;  
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,  
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:  
For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--  
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd 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 unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,  
And fix'd his head upon our battlements

**DUNCAN:** O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

**Simile:** This compares the two armies to swimmers who are struggling and clinging on to one another because they are so tired. It emphasises how difficult and brutal the battle was.

**Metaphor:** The idea that fortune smiled on Macbeth shows us he should have died in the battle but didn't. Here we see Macbeth defying fate as he tries to do throughout the play by taking fate into his own hands to secure his kingship.

**Metaphor:** the smoking sword could be the hot blood of Macbeth's opponents and creates a vivid and graphic image of our hero. Another interpretation is that angels are often depicted with swords as they protect heaven. This similarity to the description of Macbeth might make the audience see him as a protector and therefore heroic.

**Simile:** Valour means bravery and minion is like a servant or slave. This implies Macbeth is working for bravery and will do whatever it asks. It further enforces how valiant and masculine Macbeth is in battle.

**Graphic imagery:** The final image is a violent one revealing how Macbeth has the potential to be dangerous. The cutting in half of his victims in this context is praised, but as the play progresses we see this capability for violence become evil.

# Key extracts

## Act 1 Scene 3

**BANQUO:** That trusted home  
Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,  
Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange:  
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,  
The instruments of darkness tell us truths,  
Win us with honest trifles, to betray's  
In deepest consequence.  
Cousins, a word, I pray you.

**Metaphor:** Instrument is a tool and darkness signals hell and the devil. Here Banquo asserts his attitude towards the witches straight away. He thinks they are workers of evil and will only cause harm. He also shows great awareness by noting they tell us "truths". This foreshadows how the witches manipulate Macbeth.

An aside is when the character is speaking to the audience rather than the other characters on stage. It is different to a soliloquy because there are other characters on stage whereas a soliloquy is a character alone and speaking to the audience.

**MACBETH:** [Aside] Two truths are told,  
As happy prologues to the swelling act  
Of the imperial theme.--I thank you, gentlemen.

**Simile:** Macbeth is comparing the prophecies to prologues implying they are the beginning of a process which leads to him being king "imperial theme". This shows the audience that Macbeth is tempted by the prophecies and clearly enjoys the thought of being king.

*Aside*  
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.

The word 'ill' means sickly or of poor health. But the word comes from the old Norse language meaning wicked. Therefore, ill also means evil, bad and wicked. Here we can see Macbeth is already thinking the witches' prophecies might be good for him which is in complete contrast to Banquo who knew they were evil immediately. Thus Banquo is Macbeth's foil.

Macbeth explains that the thought of killing Duncan is a horrid image that physically affects him. At this point we can see that although tempted, Macbeth knows right from wrong and has some level of guilt or fear about committing such a crime.



# Key extracts

**LADY MACBETH:** The raven himself is hoarse  
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan  
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,  
And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full  
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood;  
Stop up the access and passage to remorse,  
That no compunctious visitings of nature  
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between  
The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,  
And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,  
Wherever in your sightless substances  
You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,  
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,  
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,  
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,  
To cry 'Hold, hold!'

{...}

**LADY MACBETH:** O, never  
Shall sun that morrow see!  
Your face, my thane, is as a book where men  
May read strange matters. To beguile the time,  
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,  
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,  
But be the serpent under't. He that's coming  
Must be provided for: and you shall put  
This night's great business into my dispatch;  
Which shall to all our nights and days to come  
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

**Metaphor:** Battlements are parts of wars and battles and as such are often associated with men. Here Lady Macbeth clearly sets up the idea of war and death by using this metaphor and also begins to show her more masculine and violent side.

This section is some of the most famous lines said by Lady Macbeth. The fact she is calling on spirits would terrify a Jacobean audience because she is calling evil and wickedness into her life. It highlights how evil the Macbeths will become in the play. The desire to be unsexed shows she wants all female traits to leave her body. These traits are nurturing, caring and gentle. She wants to be able to commit murder to fulfil her and her husband's ambition. .

The request to make her blood thick is a graphic image and reinforces the gruesomeness and violence that the Macbeths are about to commit. It also implies Lady Macbeth wants her blood to stop flowing so that emotions like guilt and shame cannot travel around her body making her able to commit regicide.

**Motif:** Darkness is often linked with evil acts in the play.

Lady Macbeth chooses one of the most female parts of her body and asks for it to be turned to "gall". This is a type of poison and reveals her desire to be filled with vile and repulsive things so she can commit murder. It also further enforces the idea that she wants her femininity removed. While it might seem like Lady Macbeth is evil here, her requests are never granted and therefore she still has her caring and nurturing side. This foreshadows how Lady Macbeth will lose her mind because she cannot cope with what she has been a part of.

**Simile:** Lady Macbeth is telling Macbeth to be deceptive which is a key theme in the play. It could be said that Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are the subconscious and the conscious. Lady Macbeth consciously says things that Macbeth won't but that we know he thinks. He is the opposite as he tries to bury his dark thoughts whereas she is direct about them.

# Key extracts

**MACBETH:** If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well

It were done quickly: if the assassination  
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch  
With his surcease success; that but this blow  
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,  
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,  
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases  
We still have judgment here; that we but teach  
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return  
To plague the inventor: this even-handed justice  
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice  
To our own lips. 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. Besides, this Duncan  
Hath 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;  
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,  
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim, horsed  
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,  
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,  
That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur  
To prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself  
And falls on the other.

**Metaphor:** Here Macbeth is metaphorically describing jumping into the next life - the afterlife. He says he would be prepared to risk any consequences in the afterlife if it meant he faced no consequences in this life for his actions. However, he then goes on to note how there are consequences in this life- judgement. Macbeth does not want to lose his reputation and success so far which is big factor in why he won't kill the king.

Macbeth recognises that doing evil to others or behaving in violent ways to others always come back to hurt the person who did them. They plague the inventor. Therefore, Macbeth seems to know that killing the king will only end badly for him and he will get his comeuppance. So why does he do it anyway?

The description of Duncan highlights what a kind and great king he was which only makes Macbeth's crime even worse.

**Simile:** This again reinforces what a brilliant king Duncan is. If he was killed, then angels would plead loudly to let everyone know what crime had been committed. There is a lot of imagery of innocence (cherubs and angels) which create the impression that Duncan is Christ-like. There is also a lot of language conveying anger and horror about his death (blast, horrid, trumpet-tongued)

**Metaphor:** The metaphor here describes someone using a spur ( a silver device attached to a boot) to hit the horse making it move forward. The horse moves because of the spur. The implication here is that Macbeth has no spur/ no reason to move forward with the plan, except his "vaulting ambition" which we know is his fatal flaw. Again there is an idea here that Macbeth knows his ambition will lead to his ruin because he says that his ambition overleaps itself and falls on the other side. This indicates his ambition will bring about his downfall.

# Key extracts

**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.

**Metaphor:** Macbeth comments on his new and glowing reputation by comparing them to golden opinions and new robes. He doesn't want to damage the reputation he has created and so wants to stop the plan to kill the king. We can see that reputation and honour are important to Macbeth showing that he is self-serving.

**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?

**Metaphor:** Here Lady Macbeth begins her assault on Macbeth's manhood, implying he is a coward and lacks decisiveness. She asks was the hope drunk which insinuates Macbeth's courage is ill and therefore looks pale. She is attacking his sense of masculinity and manhood.

**Simile:** The adage is a story told by women so comparing Macbeth to stories told by women further insults his manhood. In the story, the cat wants the fish but won't get its paws wet. This is like Macbeth because he wants to be king but won't go through with the murder.

**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.

Lady Macbeth again subverts the gender stereotype by claiming she would kill her child if she had promised it. The graphic image of a child being dashed while its was breastfeeding is horrific and volatile. It presents Lady Macbeth as cold-blooded and evil. However, it also shows her powers of manipulation as she convinces Macbeth to go through the murder by showing him she is more man, more brave, more powerful than him. This is enough to put Macbeth back on course.

# Key extracts

**MACBETH:** Go bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,  
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.

*Exit Servant*

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.

Macbeth's hallucinations reveal the increasing unstable mind of the protagonist. The dagger is the weapon used to murder the king and by seeing this weapon lead him to the king, it is clear Macbeth deep down wants to kill the king so he can take his place. The repeated question marks throughout this soliloquy demonstrate Macbeth's confusion and instability.

**Metaphor:** The description of his brain as heat oppressed bring a few images to mind. Firstly, heat is often associated with a fever and therefore illness. It shows us that Macbeth is mentally unwell because of the guilt he feels. Secondly, the idea of being oppressed implies pressure and reveals that Macbeth is under great strain in making this decision. It might also reveal that this thought has consumed him, like an obsession showing that he is extremely tempted by the idea of killing the king.

**Motif:** Blood becomes a symbol in the play for guilt- hence why Lady Macbeth and Macbeth become obsessed with the blood on their hands. IT is also a symbol for the increasing violence that Macbeth enlists to keep the throne.

**Motif:** Darkness is mention again as the murder happens at night. Again implying the Macbeth's link with evil and their desire to keep it secret from the rest of the characters.

**Allusion:** Tarquin is a character that snuck into Lucrece's room and raped her. Here we see Macbeth comparing himself to Tarquin and therefore acknowledging the violation he is about to commit on Duncan.

**Personification:** The earth cannot hear or see Macbeth but in this metaphor it is clear Macbeth wants to conceal what he is doing. Again, this highlights the deception of the Macbeth's but also the great fear they feel about being caught.

# Key extracts

**MACBETH:** Bring them before us.

*Exit Attendant*

To be thus is nothing;  
But to be safely thus.--Our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature  
Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'tis much he  
dares;  
And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,  
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour  
To act in safety. There is none but he  
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,  
My Genius is rebuked; as, it is said,  
Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters  
When first they put the name of king upon me,  
And bade them speak to him: then prophet-like  
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:  
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,  
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,  
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,  
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;  
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace  
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel  
Given to the common enemy of man,  
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!  
Rather than so, come fate into the list.  
And champion me to the utterance! Who's there!

Here Macbeth notes that being king is nothing if you don't feel secure. .

**Metaphor:** This reveals why Macbeth has Banquo murdered. He ultimately fears Banquo and the fear is deep down and unmovable. He later explain why he fears Banquo so much.

Macbeth admits that he is scared of no one other than Banquo because he has royalty of nature. This implies Banquo always acts honourably which would be terrible for Macbeth because Macbeth has done wrong and Banquo would not accept it. This further highlights how contrasting the character of Banquo and Macbeth are.

Again we see very clearly here why Banquo and Macbeth are foils for each other. Banquo reacted in the opposite way to Macbeth when they were both confronted with prophecies. Banquo "chid" the sisters which means to rebuke or tell off.

**Metaphor:** The words "barren" and "fruitless" both have connotations being unable to produce life. Macbeth's main concern is that he will bear no children to continue the throne. He argues that it is for Banquo's children that he has committed all these crimes and ruined his reputation because the witches prophesised that Banquo's children would be future kings. This is the reason he wants Banquo and his children killed- this is why he fears Banquo so much.

Finally, Macbeth challenges fate to a battle. He wants to overcome what the witches have fated (Banquo's children becoming kings) and keep the throne. Some argue that it was fate for Macbeth to kill the king and to commit all these other crimes, however, here Macbeth is clearly acting of his own free will.

# Key extracts

**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.

**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. Oh, oh, oh!

**Doctor:** What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.

Lady Macbeth is hallucinating which we know is a sign of the unstable mind caused by guilt and remorse. The spot she is referring to is blood. Again we know blood is a motif in the play for guilt and violence. This hallucination proves Lady Macbeth's guilt.

The use of punctuation here emphasises Lady Macbeth's traumatic state and reveals her unstable mind. The use of hyphens (-) creates the impression that her speech is rambled and disjointed showing she is delusional and sick.

The image of dead Duncan is coming back to haunt Lady Macbeth. The mention of blood shows she is fixated on the crime she committed.

Lady Macbeth is referring to the death of Lady Macduff. Although Macbeth acted alone in this murder, Lady Macbeth accepts responsibility and guilt.

**Metaphor:** Lady Macbeth wants to hide the smell of blood that she is hallucinating on her hand. This metaphor demonstrates that no matter what the Macbeths now do to redeem themselves or to hide their guilt will never work. These characters are doomed to downfall because they allowed their ambition to corrupt.

# Key extracts

Macbeth here is talking about the death of his wife and saying she should have died at another time. Some critics think this is because he is about to go into battle and this is his priority. Others think he is saying he doesn't have time to mourn her because he has to fight the English army and he wishes this wasn't the case. Either way, this line is shocking because of the lack of emotion in response to his wife's death. This highlights how their relationship has declined as how the guilt has put distance between these characters.

**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.

**Personification:** The repetition of tomorrow seems endless and monotonous much like Macbeth's opinion of life at this point. This is supported by the verb "creeps" and the "petty pace" which creates an atmosphere of stagnation and boredom.

**Metaphor:** The candle is actually Lady Macbeth's life which has finally blown out. The word brief shows how quickly their downfall came and potentially shows some remorse by Macbeth that his wife's life was cut short.

**Metaphor:** The metaphor of a poor player is describing an actor who comes on stage for an hour and then leaves the stage to be heard no more. Macbeth implies life is the same. We live our life thinking it is important and we "strut" and "fret"- full of emotion but actually it is pointless because when we die we are heard no more.

*Enter a Messenger*

Macbeth's attitude here is nihilistic (believing life is meaningless). He thinks life "Signify[s] nothing". At this point it seems Macbeth has realised all his efforts are only bringing about pointless destruction and it wasn't worth all the struggle he has gone through. Some critics think that it is this point in the play when Macbeth has his moment of realisation (anagnorisis) and realises he shouldn't have taken the path he did. However, others believe this moment happens just before his death when he calls the witches "juggling fiends" implying he now realises he had been tricked,

# Character of Macbeth



## Key points (AO1)

1. His character journey is that of the tragic hero found in Aristotle's classical drama.
2. First mention of his name is by the witches in **Act 1 scene 1**, which foreshadows his link with the supernatural and his evil character
3. Starts the play in **Act 1 scene 2** as a formidable, noble, loyal warrior who uses violence for good to protect his King and country. His extreme violence and toxic masculinity is also foreshadowed here as we hear of his bloody and stereotypically masculine actions in battle
4. His fatal flaw of ambition is sparked after hearing the witches' prophecies in **Act 1 scene 3**
5. He becomes increasingly secretive and duplicitous as his ambition grows, starting with his private confession of evil ambition in **Act 1 scene 4**
6. He is dominated by his wife, Lady Macbeth, who expresses that he has a weak and kind character in **Act 1 scene 5**
7. He is manipulated by his wife into committing regicide in **Act 1 scene 7**, highlighting his increasingly weak mind
8. His murder of Duncan and subsequent ascension to the throne break the natural order, leading to nature becoming overturned in **Act 2 scene 4**
9. His mind becomes increasingly confused and frenzied as his ambition grows. He hallucinates in **Act 2 scene 1** and **Act 3 scene 4**, highlighting his growing instability
10. His paranoia, tyranny and hunger for power grow as he is corrupted by ambition. For example, he becomes paranoid of Banquo in **Act 3 scene 1** and becomes desperate for security when he revisits the witches in **Act 4 scene 1**
11. After the witches' second prophecies, he becomes arrogant and demonstrates hubris as he believes he is invincible due to the witches' prophecies, for example in **Act 5 scene 3**
12. His confidence wanes and he reaches peripeteia as he realises that he has been tricked by the witches' half-truths in **Act 5 scene 8**
13. His journey ends cyclically as he dies fighting in **Act 5 scene 8**, just as we first met him.
14. He transitions from a superhuman, almost angelic being at the start of the play to a subhuman, evil tyrant by the end of the play, who is punished in hell for subverting the natural order.

## Key vocabulary (AO1)

Tragic hero, supernatural, evil, formidable, noble, loyal, violent, toxic masculinity, ambitious, secretive, duplicitous, dominated, weak-minded, conflicted, confused, frenzied, guilt-ridden, unstable, paranoid, tyrannical, power-hungry, corrupt, tainted, arrogant, prideful, subhuman

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- The audience admire him at the start of the play due to his bravery and heroism. He is a **stereotypical Jacobean man**
- The audience suspect his downfall and evil nature from the start of the play as the witches reference his name first
- The audience become suspicious of him as they see him trust the witches. Jacobeans were **highly superstitious** of the supernatural, so would have believed this to be evil
- The audience grow to dislike him as he becomes increasingly dishonest, weak-minded and evil.
- When he commits regicide, the audience feel deeply angry and shocked by his actions. **Just 1 year before, King James I was the attempted victim of assassination.** The audience would have known, due to this, how wrong regicide was.
- The audience would be deeply shocked by his murder of the innocent King Duncan. **Kings were believed to be the stewards of God on earth**, so killing Duncan was the same as killing the King.
- The audience pity him as he becomes increasingly mad and unhinged - they see him as a good man who made a foolish error, and now has no way back.
- The audience are relieved when he is killed at the end, as the **natural order is restored.**



# Character of Macbeth

There to meet with  
Macbeth - Witches Act 1  
scene 1

Valiant cousin! Worthy  
gentleman! - Duncan Act 1  
scene 2

This supernatural  
soliciting cannot be ill,  
cannot be good -  
Macbeth Act 1 scene 3

His virtues  
Will plead like angels,  
trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of  
his taking-off- Macbeth  
Act 1 scene 7

come fate into the list.  
And champion me to the  
utterance! - Macbeth Act 3  
scene 1

Brave Macbeth -  
Sergeant Act 1 scene 2

Bellona's Bridegroom -  
Sergeant Act 1 scene 2

If chance will have me king,  
why, chance may crown me,  
Without my stir. - Macbeth  
Act 1 scene 3

False face must hide  
what the false heart  
doth know. - Macbeth  
Act 1 scene 7

make our faces vizards to our  
hearts,  
Disguising what they are -  
Macbeth Act 3 scene 2

**Soliloquy** - art thou but  
A dagger of the mind, a false  
creation, Proceeding from the heat-  
oppressed brain? - Macbeth Act 2  
scene 1

His brandish'd steel which  
smoked with bloody  
execution - Sergeant Act 1  
scene 2

So foul and fair a day I  
have not seen - Macbeth  
Act 1 scene 3

**Visual irony** used at the start  
of Act 1 scene 4 - Macbeth  
enters after Duncan has spoken  
about the old Thane of Cawdor's  
betrayal

I had most need of  
blessing, and 'Amen'  
Stuck in my throat....  
Macbeth shall sleep no  
more - Macbeth Act 2  
scene 2

Our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep... Upon my head they  
placed a fruitless crown,  
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
- Macbeth Act 3 scene 1

Eagle ... Lion - Sergeant Act  
1 scene 2

Stay.. Speak.. Tell me more  
- Macbeth Act 1 scene 3

[Aside] ... Stars, hide your  
fires;  
Let not light see my black  
and deep desires-  
Macbeth Act 1 scene 4

Will all great  
Neptune's ocean  
wash this blood  
Clean from my hand?  
- Macbeth Act 2  
scene 2

O, full of scorpions is  
my mind, dear wife! -  
Macbeth Act 3 scene 1



## Character of Macbeth

Be innocent of the  
knowledge, dearest chuck,-  
Macbeth Act 3 scene 2

I am in blood  
Stepp'd in so far that,  
should I wade no more -  
Macbeth Act 3 scene 4

This tyrant, whose sole  
name blisters our tongues,  
Was once thought honest. -  
Malcolm Act 4 scene 3

I cannot taint with  
fear. - Macbeth Act 5  
scene 3

And be these juggling fiends  
no more believed,  
That palter with us in a double  
sense - Macbeth Act 5 scene  
8

Then comes my fit again: I had else been perfect,  
Whole as the marble, founded as the rock,  
As broad and general as the casing air:  
But now I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confined, bound in  
To saucy doubts and fears. - Macbeth Act 3 scene 4

Who can impress the forest,  
bid the tree  
Unfix his earth-bound root?  
Sweet bodements! good!-  
Macbeth Act 4 scene 1

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.-  
Macbeth Act 5 scene 5



The very firstlings of my  
heart shall be  
The firstlings of my hand. -  
Macbeth Act 4 scene 1

I think our country sinks  
beneath the yoke;  
It weeps, it bleeds; and each  
new day a gash  
Is added to her wounds -  
Malcolm Act 4 scene 3

They have tied me to a stake;  
I cannot fly,  
But, bear-like, I must fight  
the course.- Macbeth Act 5  
scene 7

Hell-hound -  
Macduff Act 5 scene 8

blood will have blood -  
Macbeth Act 3 scene 4

each new morn  
New widows howl, new  
orphans cry, new sorrows  
Strike heaven on the face. -  
Macduff Act 4 scene 3

black Macbeth -  
Malcolm Act 4 scene  
3

I bear a charmed life.-  
Macbeth Act 5 scene 8

Dead butcher - Malcolm Act 5  
scene 9

## Key evidence - Acts 3-5

# Character of Lady Macbeth



## Key points (AO1)

1. Her character journey is, similar to Macbeth, in that she also has a fatal flaw of ambition and suffers a downfall due to her own actions
2. We first meet her in **Act 1 scene 5**, where, standing alone on stage, we see her dominance and ruthless nature. She is cunning, power-hungry, deeply ambitious and lacks humanity,
3. At the start of the play, she is more dominant, more ambitious and more determined than Macbeth, who she believes has a weak mind in comparison to her strength of will
4. As a woman, she believes she is naturally weaker than Macbeth, so knows that she cannot go through with the murder herself due to her own weakness. She wishes that she could be made masculine in order to commit the deed, in **Act 1 scene 5**
5. Her evil and almost supernatural nature is emphasised as she calls on the spirits in **Act 1 scene 5**, connecting her to the witches that we have previously seen
6. She is duplicious and deceitful in **Act 1 scene 6**, when Duncan visits the castle, she is able to hide the reality of her nature by appearing to be a good and innocent hostess
7. She uses manipulation tactics to influence the weak-minded Macbeth into committing murder in **Act 1 scene 7**, showing her dominance and strength of will
8. She is unable to commit the murder herself, because of her feminine weakness. In **Act 2 scene 2** she confesses that she could not kill Duncan as he resembled her father, which hints at her weakness
9. In **Act 2 scene 2**, she shows no remorse or guilt for the death of Duncan, in comparison to Macbeth
10. As Macbeth's power grows, her power decreases and the power dynamic between them shifts, until she becomes a more stereotypical woman. In **Act 3 scene 2**, Macbeth tells her to be innocent of the knowledge of Banquo's murder
11. She begins a slow slide into madness towards the end of the play, caused by the corrupting influences of guilt and ambition on her mind
12. By **Act 5 scene 1**, she is reduced to madness, and her sensitivity becomes a weakness, leaving her unable to cope and conscience-stricken.
13. In **Act 5 scene 5**, she kills herself as she is unable to deal with the legacy of their crimes

## Key vocabulary (AO1)

Ambitious, dominant, ruthless, cunning, power-hungry, lacking humanity, determined, strong-willed, naturally weaker, feminine, supernatural, duplicitous, deceitful, hides her reality, manipulative, remorseless, guilt-less, stereotypical, deranged, conscience-stricken, mad, corrupt

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- The audience fear her at the start of the play due to her dominance, cruelty and ruthlessness. She **shockingly breaks Jacobean gender norms** and
- The audience suspect her eventual madness from the start of the play as she makes clear that she **cannot break free from her feminine weakness**
- The audience become suspicious of her as they see her call on the spirits. Jacobeans were **highly superstitious** of the supernatural, so would have believed this to be evil
- The audience grow to dislike him as she plays a part in the corruption of the play's hero, Macbeth. Partly due to her manipulation, the hero of the play is made evil.
- When she convinces Macbeth to commit regicide, the audience feel deeply angry and shocked by her actions. **Just 1 year before, King James I was the attempted victim of assassination.** The audience would have known, due to this, how wrong regicide was.
- The audience would be deeply shocked by her part in the murder of the innocent King Duncan. **Kings were believed to be the stewards of God on earth**, so killing Duncan was the same as killing the King.
- The audience pity her as she becomes increasingly mad and unhinged
- The audience realise that she cannot break free from her gender norms, suggesting the idea that **gender norms are fixed and cannot be broken out of**

# Character of Lady Macbeth

# Key evidence - Acts 1-5

my dearest partner of greatness- Macbeth's words in the letter Act 1 scene 5

yet do I fear thy nature;  
It is too full o' the milk of human kindness - Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 5

Come to my woman's breasts,  
And take my milk for gall- Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 5

My dearest love -  
Macbeth Act 1 scene 5

Wouldst thou... live a coward in thine own esteem, Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,' Like the poor cat i' the adage?- Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 7

When you durst do it,  
then you were a man -  
Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 7

A little water clears us of this deed: How easy is it, then! - Lady Macbeth Act 2 scene 2

Help me hence, ho! -  
Lady Macbeth Act 2 scene 3

You must leave this..-  
Lady Macbeth Act 3 scene 2

Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck - Macbeth Act 3 scene 2

Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh, oh, oh!- Lady Macbeth Act 5 scene 1

More needs she the divine than the physician. - Doctor Act 5 scene 1



I may pour my spirits in thine ear - Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 5

look like the innocent flower,  
But be the serpent under't.-  
Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 5

I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,  
And dash'd the brains out- Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 7

she has light by her continually; 'tis her command.- Gentlewoman Act 5 scene 1

The queen, my lord,  
is dead. - Seyton Act 5 scene 5

Come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,  
And fill me from the crown  
to the toe top-full  
Of direst cruelty! - Lady Macbeth Act 1 scene 5

See, see, our honour'd  
hostess! - Duncan Act 1 scene 6

'Tis safer to be that  
which we destroy  
Than by destruction  
dwell in doubtful joy.-  
Lady Macbeth Act 3 scene 1

Out, damned spot! out, I  
say! - Lady Macbeth Act 5 scene 1

Fiend-like queen.  
- Malcolm Act 5 scene 9

# Character of The Witches/Weird Sisters



## Key points (AO1)

1. Their alternative name weird sisters comes from the word "wyrd" meaning "fate". Some readers think that the witches are influenced by the 3 fates of ancient Greek mythology. The fates were incarnations of destiny who controlled the fate of every living human. Therefore, the witches could be said to control Macbeth's fate throughout the play.
2. The witches start the play in Act 1 scene 1, which highlights their importance and power. In this scene they name Macbeth for the first time, which foreshadows his link with the supernatural and his evil character
3. Their famous line fair is foul and foul is fair sets the tone for the play, foreshadowing that the play will be about moral confusion.
4. They are portrayed as meddlesome, vindictive creatures who cause chaos, violence and confusion in the human world. In Act 1 scene 3 they boast of how they have hurt and tortured people, which hints that they will do the same to Macbeth in the play.
5. They spark the fatal flaw of ambition in Macbeth after they prophesy his future in Act 1 scene 3. Though they do not tell Macbeth to commit regicide, they use a frightening and subtle form of temptation, guiding Macbeth on the path to his own destruction. This follows the pattern of temptation associated with the devil. Macbeth gives in to this temptation while Banquo does not.
6. They tell half-truths and speak in paradox throughout the play, using equivocatory language that can be interpreted in different ways. This creates moral confusion in Macbeth.
7. The witches are strange, mysterious outsiders who contrast the human characters in the play. They live in a desert place on the edge of humanity and their ambiguous, undefinable appearances that do not conform to expected standards of human appearance mark them as threatening interlopers in the human world.
8. Their patterns of speech also sets them apart as outsiders. They speak in rhyme and trochaic meter, with stressed syllables followed by unstressed, in opposition to the prose and iambic pentameter that the human characters speak in. These heavy stresses give the Witches' speech a sense of foreboding that emphasises their malevolence and unearthliness
9. They also speak in numbers, and they are importantly three witches. The number 3 is associated with the holy trinity (God, father and holy ghost). Shakespeare may be suggesting that the witches are an unholy trinity.
10. Too late, in Act 5 scene 8, Macbeth realises that he has been tricked by the witches, which results in his death and downfall

## Key vocabulary (AO1)

Fates, controlling, powerful, dominant, evil, meddlesome, vindictive, chaotic, violent, prideful, boasting, frightening, subtle, paradoxical, equivocators, mysterious, strange, outsiders, ambiguous, interlopers, threatening, juxtaposed, unholy, tricksters

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- The audience are deeply frightened and suspicious of the witches at the start of the play. **Shakespeare wrote Macbeth at a time when interest in witchcraft bordered on hysteria, and his portrayal of the witches draws directly on many of the beliefs about witchcraft that his audience would have held. Witches were blamed for causing illness, death and disaster, and were thought to punish their enemies by giving them nightmares, making their crops fail and their animals sicken.**
- Those who were convicted of witchcraft were often tortured, their trials reported in grisly detail in pamphlets that circulated in their hundreds. Often, those accused of witchcraft lived on the edges of society: they were old, poor and unprotected, and were therefore easy to blame.
- Shakespeare's patron, King James VI of Scotland was deeply concerned about the threat posed by witches. He believed that a group of witches had tried to kill him by drowning him while he was at sea. When Shakespeare wrote Macbeth in 1606, then, he knew that his audience would have felt a mixture of fear and fascination for the three 'weird sisters', their imaginations captivated by the mysterious meeting on the desolate heath with which the play begins.

## Character of The Witches/Weird Sisters

## Key evidence - Acts 1-5

SCENE I. A desert place.  
Thunder and lightning. Enter  
three Witches- Act 1 scene 1

There to meet with Macbeth.  
- Third Witch Act 1 scene 1

Fair is foul, and  
foul is fair:  
Hover through the  
fog and filthy air.-  
The witches Act 1  
scene 1

Killing swine.- Second witch,  
Act 1 scene 3

And, like a rat without a tail,  
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.-  
First witch, Act 1 scene 3



I will drain him dry as hay:  
Sleep shall neither night nor  
day - First witch, Act 1 scene  
3

Here I have a pilot's thumb,  
Wreck'd as homeward he did  
come. - First witch, Act 1  
scene 3

Peace! the charm's  
wound up. -  
Witches, Act 1  
scene 3

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? - Banquo  
Act 1 scene 3

The instruments of darkness  
tell us truths,  
Win us with honest trifles,  
to betray's  
In deepest consequence -  
Banquo Act 1 scene 3

Round about the  
cauldron go;  
In the poison'd entrails  
throw.- First witch Act  
4 scene 1

Double, double toil and  
trouble;  
Fire burn, and cauldron  
bubble...- Witches Act 4  
scene 1

Secret, black, and midnight  
hags!- Macbeth Act 4 scene  
1

And be these juggling fiends  
no more believed,  
That palter with us in a  
double sense- Macbeth Act  
5 scene 8

# Character of Banquo

## Key points (AO1)

1. Banquo is Macbeth's foil - he juxtaposes Macbeth, choosing the path of goodness and honesty in contrast to Macbeth, who falls victim to the witches' prophesies and his own ruthless ambition.
2. We first hear of Banquo's bravery and courage in **Act 1 scene 2** when the sergeant reports to Duncan of his valiant actions in battle. He is Macbeth's loyal friend from the start of the play.
3. Duncan praises Banquo's bravery in **Act 1 scene 2**, emphasising his loyalty and faithfulness to the King.
4. In **Act 1 scene 3**, when Macbeth and Banquo meet the witches, we see that Banquo also has ambition. However, unlike Macbeth, he is sceptical of the supernatural prophesies. He warns Macbeth about the dangers of trusting evil, suggesting that evil will offer men a small, hopeful truth only to catch them in a deadly trap
5. The witches prophesy that Banquo's children will be Kings, and that he will be greater than Macbeth.
6. In **Act 3 scene 1**, when Macbeth kills the king and takes the throne, Banquo becomes suspicious of Macbeth's actions, as he is the only one aware of this encounter with the witches—reserves judgment for God
7. When Macbeth becomes King, Macbeth becomes increasingly paranoid of Banquo and the prophesies and considers his friend a threat to his newly acquired throne; thus, he has him murdered by assassins. While Banquo dies, his son Fleance lives on.
8. In **Act 3 scene 4**, Banquo appears as a ghost to haunt Macbeth, which signifies Macbeth's growing guilt and madness. In this scene, Banquo plagues Macbeth to remind him of his evil actions and intensifies his guilty conscience. He is a reminder of goodness in the play.
9. While Banquo dies, he lives on through his reappearance as a ghost, as well as through his son, Fleance. Despite being dead, Banquo continues as an oppositional force of good to contrast Macbeth's evil.
10. When Macbeth returns to the witches in **Act 4 scene 1**, he sees an apparition of the murdered Banquo, along with eight of his descendants. This again deeply unsettles Macbeth



## Key vocabulary (AO1)

tyrant, ambitious, superhuman, deranged, conflicted, paranoid, tyrannical, hubristic, weak, loyal, noble, victim, foolish, tragic, masculine, toxic, mad, corrupt, unnatural, usurper, supernatural, duplicitous, tainted

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- The audience admire him at the start of the play due to his bravery and heroism. He is a **stereotypical Jacobean man**
- The audience trust Banquo from the start of the play in contrast to their growing suspicion of Macbeth, because Banquo **rejects witchcraft, which the Jacobean audience also felt deeply superstitious of**.
- The audience become sympathetic towards him as he is murdered by Macbeth. This intensifies their hatred for Macbeth, as Banquo becomes an **innocent victim**.
- When he returns as a spirit, the audience fear hi, but also see him as a force of goodness
- When Shakespeare wrote Macbeth, he based the play on a story that he found in Holinshed's Chronicles, a collection of historical tales from England, Ireland and Scotland. In the original text, Banquo assists Macbeth in the murder of Duncan. **King James I, Shakespeare's patron, was believed to be a descendent of Banquo. Therefore, Shakespeare did not want James to be associated with a murderer. So, when he wrote the play, he made Banquo a good character who defies the powers of evil and remains innocent. This would have pleased James and flattered him, which Shakespeare intended to do as he was a supporter of his plays.**

## Character of Banquo

As sparrows  
eagles, or the hare  
the lion.- Captain,  
Act 1 scene 1

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?.- Act 1 scene 3

If you can look into the seeds of  
time,  
And say which grain will grow and  
which will not,  
Speak then to me, - Act 1 scene 3

Banquo and  
Macbeth, all hail!,  
- Witches, Act 1  
scene 3

There's  
husbandry in  
heaven;  
Their candles are  
all out.  
Act 1 scene 3

What, can the devil  
speak true?-, Act 1  
scene 3

oftentimes, to win us to our  
harm,  
The instruments of  
darkness tell us truths,  
Win us with honest trifles,  
to betray's  
In deepest consequence.-,  
Act 1 scene 3

New horrors come upon  
him,  
Like our strange  
garments, cleave not to  
their mould  
But with the aid of use.-  
, Act 2 scene 1

Our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep; and in his  
royalty of nature  
Reigns that which  
would be fear'd:  
Macbeth Act 3 scene 1

**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 counsell'd .  
Act 2 scene 1

Thou hast it now: king,  
Cawdor, Glamis, all,  
As the weird women  
promised, and, I fear,  
Thou play'dst most foully  
for't: Act 3 scene 1

then prophet-like  
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:  
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,  
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,  
No son of mine succeeding. :Act 3 scene 1

yet it was said  
...that myself should be the  
root and father Of many  
kings. If there come truth  
from them-- As upon thee,  
Macbeth,... May they not be  
my oracles as well, And set me  
up in hope? But hush! no more.  
Act 3 scene 1

There the grown serpent  
lies; the worm that's  
fled  
Hath nature that in time  
will venom breed,  
No teeth for the  
present.  
Act 3 scene 1

There the grown  
serpent lies; the worm  
that's fled  
Hath nature that in  
time will venom breed,  
No teeth for the  
present. Macbeth, Act  
3 scene 4

A show of Eight Kings, the last with a glass  
in his hand; GHOST OF BANQUO following

**MACBETH**  
Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo: down!  
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls.! Now, I  
see, 'tis true;  
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon  
me,  
And points at them for his. Act 4 scene 1





# Character of Duncan

## Key points (AO1)

1. Duncan is the king of Scotland at the beginning of the play.
2. Duncan has two sons, Malcom and Donalbain. In **Act 1 Scene 4**, Duncan states that Malcom will be next in line to take the throne.
3. In **Act 1 Scene 2** Duncan is impressed with Macbeth's skills on the battle field and rewards him by making him Thane of Cawdor showing he is a kind and generous king.
4. Duncan wisely comments that deceptive people are hard to spot because you cannot see their lies on the face. Even though Duncan is often deceived by characters such as Macbeth and the thane of Cawdor this shows why it is so difficult..
5. Duncan then visits Macbeth's home and comments on how welcoming and sweet the air is; the irony here is glaring because in reality the Macbeth's are plotting his murder and this homestead will be his place of death.
6. In **Act 1 Scene 7**, Macbeth is unsure whether he should kill Duncan and says it is because he is so noble, and good. He also compares King Duncan to Christ and claims the angels will grieve loudly when Duncan is murdered. Shakespeare is clearly highlighting the horror of Macbeth's act of regicide by showing what a great king Duncan is.
7. Duncan is brutally murdered in **Act 2 Scene 2** by Macbeth who stabbed him while he slept. Lady Macbeth had drugged the guards so they were asleep when Macbeth arrived to complete the plan or murder.
8. Lady Macbeth returns to Duncan's room in **Act 2 Scene 2** after he has been killed to replace the daggers on the sleeping guards as Macbeth had brought them with him to their room. Before the king's death Lady Macbeth claimed she herself would have killed him but he looked like her father as he slept. This shows us Lady Macbeth is not as masculine and cold-blooded as she would have us believe.
9. At the end of the play, the rightful king is placed on the throne as Duncan's son Malcom becomes the new king of Scotland.



## Key vocabulary (AO1)

Great, noble, wise, generous, honourable,, warm, kind, trusting, Christ-like, unperceptive, unaware.

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- The audience would respect and admire the power and authority that a king held in the Jacobean times.
- The audience would believe that King Duncan was chosen by God to act as his representative on earth.
- They would see Duncan as a just and fair ruler.
- The audience would be horrified the Macbeth committed regicide because they believed this was an act against God himself.
- The audience would expect to see the natural order be disrupted in the play to show that a great crime had been committed.
- When the rightful king takes the throne in the final act of the play, the audience would expect to see order restored.

## Character of Duncan

## Key evidence - Acts 1-5

No more the thane of  
Cawdor shall deceive our  
bosom interest

*Act 1 scene 2*

This castle hath a pleasant  
seat; the air nimbly and  
sweetly recommends itself  
unto our gentle senses

*Act 1 scene 6*



*Oh valiant cousin,  
worthy gentlemen*

*Act 1 scene 2*

*There's no art to  
find the minds  
construction in the  
face*

*Act 1 scene 4*

**Macbeth:** Whose horrid image doth  
unfix my hair and make my seated  
heart knock at my ribs

*Act 1 scene 3*

*He was a gentleman  
on whom I built an  
absolute trust*

*Act 1 scene 4*

*What he hath lost noble  
Macbeth hath won*

*Act 1 scene 2*

**Lady Macbeth:** Had he not resembled my father as  
he slept, I had done't

*Act 2 scene 2*

**Macbeth:** Besides, this  
Duncan  
Hath 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*

# Character of Malcolm

## Key points (AO1)

1. Malcom is the son of King Duncan and is next in line to take the throne.
2. Like Duncan, Malcom represents order and he is first present in the play in **Act 1 Scene 2** when he hears about Macbeth's exploits on the battlefield from the Sargeant.
3. Malcolm also represents King James I as both Malcom and King James are the rightful king on the throne.
4. In **Act 1 Scene 4**, Malcom is confirmed as next in line to the throne by King Duncan.
5. In **Act 2 Scene 3** both Malcolm and Donalbain are informed of their father's death in Macbeth's castle while they all stayed their as Macbeth's guests. Suspicion falls on the brothers because Malcom was next inline to the throne.
6. Malcom flees to Scotland because he is worried that whoever killed his father might pose a danger to him. Donalbain flees to Ireland.
7. In **Act 4 Scene 3**, Macduff visits Malcom in Scotland because he wants to help raise an army against the tyrant Macbeth. Malcom was already preparing for battle against Macbeth and suspects Macduff might be playing false and actually helping Macbeth.
8. Malcom tests Macduff's loyalty by pretending he, like Macbeth, isn't fit to be king because he too would become greedy for power. Macduff agrees that he too would be similar and they both settle that no one is fit to rule a land such as Scotland.
9. Malcom now trusts Macduff and informs him that Macbeth has murdered his family. They both become adamant that they will bring the tyrant Macbeth down.
10. In **Act 5 Scene 4**, Malcom's army cut down trees and disguise themselves as they move towards Macbeth's castle.
11. In **Act 5 Scene 8**, takes his place as king of Scotland because Macbeth has been killed. At this point order is restored in the play.



## Key vocabulary (AO1)

Order, rightful place, descendent of a king, noble, brave, restores.

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- A Jacobean audience would see Malcom as the rightful king and successor to Duncan.
- When Malcom fled after his father's death, the audience would understand his fear as many attempts were made on the lives of kings and queens during this time.
- The audience would support Malcom's attempt to battle against Macbeth so he can restore order at the end of the play.

## Character of Malcolm

It weeps, it bleeds and each new day  
a gash is added to her wounds

*Act 4 scene 3*



## Key evidence - Acts 1-5

*Angels are bright still though the  
brightest fell*

*Act 4 scene 3*

# Character of Macduff

## Key points (AO1)

1. Macduff is a loyal and noble warrior in Duncan's army.
2. Macduff acts as a foil to Macbeth, directly contrasting Macbeth's corrupt and evil nature with Macduff's sense of duty and loyalty.
3. Macduff finds King Duncan's body and raises the alarm
4. In **Act 2 Scene 3**, Macduff refuses to go to Macbeth's coronation because he doesn't believe Macbeth's reasons for killing the guards. Macduff thinks Macbeth is hiding something and may have killed the king.
5. Instead of going to the coronation, Macduff goes to England to see Malcom (Duncan's eldest son). Together, Malcom and Macduff plan to battle Macbeth and return the throne to the rightful king.
6. In **Act 4 Scene 2**, Macbeth, who feels threatened by Macduff takes the warning from the witches second prophecy and decide to kills Macduff's family.
7. Macduff returns in the play in **Act 5 Scene 8**, where he kills Macbeth by decapitation. Macduff was able to do this because he was born through caesarean so he was "Untimely ripped" making him someone "not born of woman" as the witches implied.

## Key vocabulary (AO1)

Noble, brave, warrior, just, powerful, causes Macbeth's demise, helps to restore order, duty, loyalty.

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- The audience would understand Macduff's suspicion of Macbeth.
- The would admire Macduff's patriotism and love of Scotland.
- The audience would recognise and praise Macduff's sense of goodness and see that he is a ray of light in the darkness that is Macbeth.



## Character of Macduff

*Was from his mother's  
womb/Untimely ripped*

*Act 5 scene 8*

*Bleed, bleed poor  
country!*

*Act 4 scene 3*



## Key evidence - Acts 1-5

*Confusion now hath made  
his masterpiece*

*Act 2 scene 3*

*Beware Macduff!*

*Act 4 scene 3*

# Character of Lady Macduff

## Key points (AO1)

1. Lady Macduff is the wife of Macduff and she is brutally murdered in **Act 4 Scene 2** on orders from Macbeth.
2. Lady Macduff acts as a foil to Lady Macbeth as these women directly contrast in their roles and attitudes. Lady Macbeth's desires to become cold-blooded and ruthless, adopting more traditionally masculine traits to achieve this. However, Lady Macduff demonstrates her caring and nurturing role as the predominant figure in her children's lives and therefore represents the female stereotype in the Jacobean era.
3. **In Act 4 Scene 2**, The Macduff family are murdered highlighting the tyrannical nature of Macbeth. The Macduff children and wife are completely innocent of any crime and do not pose a threat to Macbeth. Therefore, Macbeth shows the ultimate ruthlessness in killing these characters.

## Key vocabulary (AO1)

Caring, feminine, mother, traditional female role, innocent, stereotype.

## Jacobean audience's response (AO3)

- A Jacobean audience would see Lady Macduff as a traditional female figure
- The audience would feel great sympathy and pity for the fate of her and her children.
- The audience would be horrified and shocked that Macbeth had them murdered.



# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 1

Act 1	Act 2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who are the first characters we meet in the play?</li> <li>2. Why does Shakespeare have these character open the play?</li> <li>3. What is pathetic fallacy?</li> <li>4. How does Shakespeare use pathetic fallacy in the opening of the play and what effect does it have?</li> <li>5. What did the witches do to the sailor whose wife didn't give them nuts?</li> <li>6. Who are battling in Act 1 Scene 2?</li> <li>7. How is Macbeth described in battle?</li> <li>8. How does Duncan feel about Macbeth?</li> <li>9. What three prophecies do the witches give Macbeth?</li> <li>10. How does Lady Macbeth react when she hears about the witches prophecies?</li> <li>11. What does Duncan think of the Macbeth's home when he first arrives?</li> <li>12. How does Lady Macbeth convince Macbeth to commit regicide?</li> <li>13. Who is more dominant in the relationship between Lady Macbeth and Macbeth?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does Macbeth see before he murders the king?</li> <li>2. What is Macbeth's state of mind like at this point in the play?</li> <li>3. How do we know Lady Macbeth is not as cold-blooded as she would like to be?</li> <li>4. Why does Macbeth want to clean his hands in this act?</li> <li>5. How do the Macbeths react when they hear about Duncan's death?</li> <li>6. What does Ross say will happen to the natural world now that the king has been killed?</li> </ol>
Act 3	Act 4
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How has Macbeth changed in Act 3?</li> <li>2. Why does Macbeth have Banquo killed?</li> <li>3. What is beginning to happen to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's relationship?</li> <li>4. What does Macbeth hallucinate in Act 3 and what does this reveal?</li> <li>5. Where has Macduff gone at the end of this Act?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why does Macbeth return to the witches?</li> <li>2. What prophecies do the witches give Macbeth the second time?</li> <li>3. How does Macbeth feel after hearing these prophecies?</li> <li>4. What do Macduff and Malcom think of Macbeth in this act?</li> <li>5. What do Malcom and Macduff decide to do next?</li> </ol>



# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 2

Act 5	Key messages in the play
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is Lady Macbeth doing at the beginning of this act?</li> <li>2. What does this reveal about her state of mind?</li> <li>3. How do Malcom's army overcome the prophecies?</li> <li>4. How does Macbeth react when he hears about his wife's death?</li> <li>5. What is Macbeth's main priority at the end of the play?</li> <li>6. How has Macbeth changed over the course of the play?</li> <li>7. How is Macduff able to kill Macbeth?</li> <li>8. Who takes the throne when Macbeth is killed?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is Shakespeare's message about ambition?</li> <li>2. What is Shakespeare warning the audience about killing kings?</li> <li>3. What does Shakespeare suggest happens to the natural order when a king or queen is killed?</li> <li>4. What does ambition lead to in the play?</li> <li>5. What is Shakespeare's message about the supernatural?</li> </ol>
Key context – Supernatural	Key context- King James I
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which characters represent the supernatural?</li> <li>2. How did King James I feel about witches?</li> <li>3. How did Jacobean feel about witches?</li> <li>4. What is Shakespeare teaching us about the supernatural?</li> <li>5. What happened to James I when he was younger that made him feel this way about witches?</li> <li>6. What happened if you were accused of being a witch in the Jacobean era?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What religion did James I follow?</li> <li>2. Why did people want James I assassinated?</li> <li>3. What big event happened in 1605?</li> <li>4. Who was punished for the assassination attempt on James I?</li> <li>5. What was the relationship between Shakespeare and James I?</li> <li>6. Why does Shakespeare want to flatter King James I?</li> <li>7. How does Shakespeare show support for King James I?</li> </ol>

# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 3

Key context- Divine right of kings	Setting
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the divine right of kings?</li> <li>2. What did Jacobeans believe about who made a king a king?</li> <li>3. What powers did Jacobeans believe kings held?</li> <li>4. How would Jacobeans react to an attempt on a kings life?</li> <li>5. What happens to the natural order when a king is killed?</li> <li>6. How can the natural order be put back into its right place?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why does Shakespeare have the witches appear in terrible weather and on barren hills?</li> <li>2. Why does Shakespeare set Duncan’s death in the Macbeths home?</li> <li>3. What is significant about the time Duncan is murdered?</li> <li>4. Why does Macbeth have Banquo murdered away from the castle?</li> </ol>
Dramatic irony	Top 25 quotes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is dramatic irony?</li> <li>2. How is dramatic irony used when Duncan goes Macbeth’s house in Act 1?</li> <li>3. What do the audience know that characters don’t at the banquet Macbeth has in Act 3?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give a quote to show the Macbeths plan to be deceptive</li> <li>2. Give <b>two</b> quotes to show that Macbeth is a great warrior in Act 1</li> <li>3. Finish the quote “Stars hide...”</li> <li>4. Which quote best shows Macbeth’s ambition?</li> <li>5. Give a quote to show Lady Macbeth thinks Macbeth is too good to commit murder</li> <li>6. Which quote shows how far Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have fallen at the end of the play?</li> <li>7. Which quote shows Macbeth is mentally suffering?</li> <li>8. Give a quote to show how Lady Macbeth manipulates Macbeth.</li> <li>9. Give a quote to show Macbeth is an evil leader/king</li> <li>10. Give a quote to show Macbeth thinks he is invincible.</li> </ol>

# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 4

Macbeth – use quotes in your answers	Lady Macbeth- use quotes in your answers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does Macbeth change in the play?</li> <li>2. What is Macbeth’s mental state like as the play progresses?</li> <li>3. What is Macbeth’s fatal flaw or hamartia?</li> <li>4. How does Shakespeare use Macbeth to send a message to the audience?</li> <li>5. How is Macbeth a Jacobean stereotype?</li> <li>6. Why does Macbeth think he bears a “charmed life”?</li> <li>7. Why does Macbeth hallucinate?</li> <li>8. How would a Jacobean audience respond to Macbeth?</li> <li>9. Why does Macbeth not want to kill King Duncan?</li> <li>10. Why does Macbeth want Macduff killed?</li> <li>11. What does Macbeth become obsessed with as the play develops?</li> <li>12. How does Macbeth react when his wife dies?</li> <li>13. How does Macbeth have a high status at the opening of the play?</li> <li>14. How does Macbeth die?</li> <li>15. Of all the people Macbeth kills, which is the most shocking and why?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What motivates Lady Macbeth to convince Macbeth to commit regicide?</li> <li>2. What does Lady Macbeth ask the dark spirits to do so she can become more cold-blooded?</li> <li>3. How is Lady Macbeth more dominant in her relationship with Macbeth?</li> <li>4. Why does Lady Macbeth not believe Macbeth will be able to kill the king?</li> <li>5. What does Lady Macbeth say to Macbeth about the blood on his hands in Act 2 Scene 2?</li> <li>6. How does her relationship with Macbeth change over the course of the play?</li> <li>7. How do we know Lady Macbeth is not as cold-blooded as she would like to be?</li> <li>8. What happens to Lady Macbeth in Act 5?</li> <li>9. What does Lady Macbeth see on her hands in Act 5 and why is this ironic?</li> <li>10. How did Lady Macbeth begin the play with a high status?</li> <li>11. How is Lady Macduff a foil for Lady Macbeth?</li> </ol>

# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 5

Banquo- Use quotes in your answer	The witches- Use quotes in your answer
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is Banquo to Macbeth?</li> <li>2. How are both Banquo and Macbeth similar at the opening of the play?</li> <li>3. How does Banquo respond to the witches?</li> <li>4. What prophecy do the witches give to Banquo?</li> <li>5. Give three adjectives to describe Banquo</li> <li>6. Why does Macbeth have Banquo killed?</li> <li>7. Why does Banquo's ghost appear at the banquet?</li> <li>8. How is Banquo a foil for Macbeth?</li> <li>9. Why would an audience admire Banquo more than Macbeth?</li> <li>10. Give a quote to show Macbeth fears Banquo</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is significant about the setting the witches are depicted in?</li> <li>2. What intentions do the witches have towards humans?</li> <li>3. What prophecies do the witches give to Macbeth in Act 1?</li> <li>4. What prophecies do the witches give to Macbeth in Act 4?</li> <li>5. How are the witches equivocators?</li> <li>6. How are the witches able to manipulate Macbeth?</li> <li>7. How would a Jacobean audience react to the witches?</li> <li>8. What did King James I think about witches?</li> <li>9. Which quote said by Banquo describes the witches as tools used by the devil?</li> <li>10. Why did the witches target Macbeth?</li> </ol>

# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 6

Macduff- use quotes in your answer	Duncan – use quotes in your answer
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is Macduff?</li> <li>2. Give three adjective to describe this character</li> <li>3. Why is Macduff suspicious of Macbeth in Act 2?</li> <li>4. Where does Macduff go when he should have gone to Macbeth’s coronation?</li> <li>5. How is Macduff a foil for Macbeth?</li> <li>6. What happens to Macduff’s family and why?</li> <li>7. How would an audience feel about the character of Macduff?</li> <li>8. Why is Macduff able to kill Macbeth?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What type of king is Duncan?</li> <li>2. How does Duncan show he is easily fooled in Act 1?</li> <li>3. What is ironic about the line “The castle has a pleasant air”?</li> <li>4. Why does the image of Duncan dead upset Macbeth?</li> <li>5. How would the angels react after Duncan’s death and why?</li> <li>6. What reason did Macbeth have for killing king Duncan?</li> </ol>
Malcolm – use quotes in your answer	Theme of ambition
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who is Malcom?</li> <li>2. Where does Malcom go in Act 2?</li> <li>3. Why does Malcom flee to this place?</li> <li>4. Who does Malcom represent in real life?</li> <li>5. How would an audience react to Malcom?</li> <li>6. How does Malcolm manage to get his army so near Macbeth’s castle?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is Shakespeare’s message about ambition in the play?</li> <li>2. Which characters show they have too much ambition?</li> <li>3. What does ambition bring about in the play?</li> <li>4. Why is Shakespeare warning the audience against being to ambitious?</li> <li>5. What does ambition cause for Macbeth and his wife?</li> </ol>

# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 7

Theme of kingship	Theme of the supernatural
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What happens when a king is killed?</li> <li>2. Why does this happen?</li> <li>3. What examples of a good king do we see in the play?</li> <li>4. What examples of a bad king do we see in the play?</li> <li>5. What is the divine right of kings?</li> <li>6. How do we see Duncan being described in a Godly way?</li> <li>7. How is the natural order disrupted in the play?</li> <li>8. Who was the king in real life during the Jacobean era?</li> <li>9. Why does Shakespeare want to show support for this person?</li> <li>10. How does Shakespeare warn the audience that regicide is not a good idea?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was James I's attitude towards witches?</li> <li>2. Why does Shakespeare present the witches negatively?</li> <li>3. What are the witches intentions throughout the play?</li> <li>4. How do the witches treat behave at the beginning of the plat that warns the audience they are evil?</li> <li>5. What message is Shakespeare sending about the supernatural?</li> <li>6. What is significant about the setting when the witches are on stage?</li> <li>7. What is revealed about Lady Macbeth when she calls on spirits to help her kill Duncan?</li> <li>8. What is revealed about Macbeth when he returns to the witches a second time?</li> <li>9. How does Shakespeare present the witches as untrustworthy?</li> <li>10. Which character behaves correctly when they meet the witches?</li> </ol>

# Self-Quizzing Questions – Page 8

Theme of fate and free will	Theme of deception
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is fate?</li> <li>2. What is free will?</li> <li>3. Which characters seem to control fate?</li> <li>4. Which characters have complete free will?</li> <li>5. Do the witches control the future or do they simply predict what Macbeth will do in the future?</li> <li>6. What is Shakespeare's message and fate and free will?</li> <li>7. Does Macbeth act on his own accord or is he fated to do the things he does?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which characters deceive others?</li> <li>2. What does King Duncan say about those who are deceptive?</li> <li>3. Which quote shows how the Macbeths will deceive others?</li> <li>4. How do the witches deceive Macbeth?</li> <li>5. How does Malcolm trick or deceive Macduff in Act 4?</li> </ol>
The theme of masculinity and femininity	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What would a Jacobean person believe about masculinity?</li> <li>2. What would a Jacobean person think is feminine?</li> <li>3. Who is the Jacobean male stereotype in the play?</li> <li>4. Who is the Jacobean female stereotype in the play?</li> <li>5. How does Lady Macbeth subvert her gender?</li> <li>6. How would an audience react to Lady Macbeth's soliloquy about becoming more masculine?</li> <li>7. What is Shakespeare's message about masculinity and femininity?</li> </ol>	