



Ortu Hassenbrook Academy

Year 10 Macbeth Knowledge Organiser



AO1: read, understand and respond to texts
AO2: analyse the language, form and structure used by the writing to create meanings, using relevant terminology
AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts they were written in
AO4: use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures with accurate spelling and punctuation

LINK TO EXAM:
Lit Paper 1 Section A - Extract question (45 minutes)

The Play VS Real Life

Macbeth – 11 th C Scotland	Shakespeare – 16 th C England
King Duncan – benevolent king and loved by all	King James – weak king and hated by many.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

AMBIGUITY	The quality of being open to more than one interpretation; inexactness
DRAMATIC IRONY	When the audience are aware of something the characters are not
Duplicity	Deceit
EQUIVOCATION	The use of ambiguous language to conceal the truth
EUPHEMISM	A polite way of expressing something unpleasant or taboo
FATAL FLAW	A defect/weakness in a character.
FORESHADOW	Clues to a future event
HAMARTIA	A fatal flaw leading to the downfall of a tragic hero
IAMBIC PENTAMETER	A style of verse , where there are 5 pairs of 2 syllables per line
IAMBIC TETRAMETER	A style of verse , where there are 4 pairs of 2 syllables per line
MACHIAVELLIANISM	Act of being cunning to get ahead
MOTIF	A dominant or recurring idea
MONOLOGUE	An extended speech by one character
NATURAL ORDER	The way things are supposed to be as dictated by nature
TRAGIC HERO	A hero that makes a fatal error, leading to his downfall
PARADOX	A contrast / opposites
PATRIARCHY	A society led by men
PATHOS	A quality evoking pity or sadness
RHETORIC	Persuasive speech
SEMANTIC FIELD	Thematic language running through a section of text
SOLILOQUY	A character's innermost thoughts spoken out loud (the audience can hear this, but the other characters cannot)
ZEITGEIST	Spirit of the times

GLOSSARY

AMBITION	Strong desire to achieve something.
APPARITIONS	A ghost/ghost-like image of a person.
HALLUCINATIONS	Apparent vision of something not present.
REGICIDE	The act of killing a king.
THANE	A man with land granted by the king.
TREASON	Betraying one's country

CONCEPT Propaganda play	GENRE Tragedy	Aim High Discussion Points: * Link to the Trinity * Macbeth as Lucifer * Lady Macbeth as Pilate * Reference to Judas Iscariot
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CONTEXT - Overall social landscape:
Shakespeare's lifetime spanned the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods, an era of relative stability that was sandwiched between decades of uncertainty and turmoil. However, even during this period issues of succession and political allegiance, the threat of rebellion, the conflict between different sects of Christianity, questions of faith and morality and the perils of a rapidly shifting social landscape were all part of public discourse and were concerns that impacted and influenced the literature of the period. Much of this turbulence can be seen in Macbeth – both through the external turmoil of conflict, the subversion of the natural order and nature, and through the internal conflict of the characters.

King James 1	Macbeth was written in 1606, early in the reign of James 1, who succeeded to the English throne in 1603 after being king of Scotland. The play pays homage to the king's Scottish lineage and hatred of witches. Additionally the witches' prophecy that Banquo will found a line of kings is a nod to James' family's claim to have descended from the historical Banquo.
The Gunpowder Plot	A failed assassination attempt against King James. Disgruntled Catholics planned to blow up the House of Lords. Guy Fawkes was discovered guarding their horde of explosives in the basement of the House of Lords on November 5, 1605. The traitors were sentenced to death. Many of Macbeth's themes resonate with the attempted revolt: it's a play about treason, the overthrow of a King, and the downfall of his murderers.
The Great Chain of Being	The idea that everyone is allotted a place by God (this is the natural order of things), with the king at the head. By killing the king and taking his place, Macbeth subverts this natural order. Disorder in nature reflects the disorder in human affairs.
The Divide Right of Kings	The idea that kings received their power from God and not from their subject. James 1 was a believer in this, and the idea meant that any treasonous activity was a crime against God. Only a century earlier, England had suffered under the massive disorder of the Wars of the Roses, so many supported the idea to avoid civil unrest.
Patriarchy	Patriarchal societies are those in which men dominate, and inheritance passes through male heirs.
Gender	Macbeth and Lady Macbeth switch between having masculine and feminine traits. In the play, gender is often linked to ambition and willingness to do anything to achieve power.
Women	Women were considered the delicate, 'fairer' sex and, consequently, expected to be quiet, reserved and god-fearing. The social expectation at the time was that women would obey men, be faithful and subservient. They were regarded as possessions, first owned by the father, then given to and owned by the husband, and did not have a voice and their opinions were not expected or required. It was against the social norm to be violent. Lady Macbeth subverts these expectations to manipulate Macbeth in getting what she wants. Hence, she is often associated with the witches in her behaviour.
Adam, Even and the serpent	In the Bible, Adam and Eve are tempted by the serpent whilst in the Garden of Eden, and Even eats the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge. She convinces Adam to eat as well, and God curses them and banishes them from the garden. The motif of the serpent is often alluded to in Macbeth. In the play, there is a clear parallel drawn between this biblical story and the narrative of the play.
Superstition	As a result of limited scientific knowledge, there was a great belief in witches and the supernatural. One of the ways they accounted for the unexplained was through witchcraft. Thousands of women were accused of witchcraft, and tortured and as a result. King James 1 wrote a book on the subject entitled 'Daemonologie'. The persecution and vilification of women reflected patriarchal society's distrust of women and its desire to suppress women who showed any form of personal opinion or independent thought.

Plot

Act 1

- The 3 witches gather to meet Macbeth and Banquo.
- Duncan hears the Thane of Cawdor has betrayed him.
- Macbeth is seen as a hero.
- Macbeth and Banquo hear the predictions.
- Duncan decides that Malcolm will be heir to the throne.
- Duncan plans to visit Macbeth.
- Lady Macbeth reads Macbeth's letter.



Act 2

- Macbeth has doubts and sees a vision of a floating dagger.
- He follows through with Duncan's murder.
- LM has to finish the job by wiping blood on the drunk guards.
- Macduff discovers Duncan's body.
- The guards are the likely suspects.
- Macbeth kills the guards.
- Malcolm and Donalbain flee the castle because they are afraid.



Act 3

- Banquo suspects Macbeth for the murder of King Duncan.
- Macbeth sends murderers to kill Banquo. Banquo is murdered but Fleance escapes.
- The ghost of Banquo is at the banquet. Macbeth rants and raves. LM tries to cover up the situation.
- Macduff didn't attend the banquet as he is suspicious of Macbeth.

Act 4

- Macbeth visits the 3 witches and they show him more visions. He believes he can't be killed by any man.
- Macbeth sends murderers to Macduff's castle to kill his family.
- In England, Macduff begs Malcolm to return to the throne.
- Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty then agrees to the war against Macbeth.

Act 5

- LM has gone mad with guilt. She sleepwalks and tries to clean blood from her hands. She commits suicide.
- Many of Macbeth's supporters decide to help Malcolm. Macbeth isn't worried as he believes the prophecies.
- Macbeth confronts Macduff and learns that he was not born naturally but by caesarean section.
- Macbeth and Macduff fight and natural order is restored when Macbeth is killed and Malcolm is crowned king.



Key Quotations

Act 1

- "Fair is foul, and foul is fair" (1.1) Witches
- "For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name" (1.2) The Captain
- "So foul and fair a day I have not seen" (1.3) Macbeth
- "Stars hide your fires, let not light see my black and deep desires" (1.4) Macbeth
- "Come you spirits...unsex me here and fill me from the crown to the toe top full of direst cruelty." (1.5) Lady Macbeth
- "Look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it" (1.6) Lady Macbeth
- "When you durst do it, then you were a man" (1.7) Lady Macbeth
- "But screw your courage to the sticking place and we'll not fail." (1.7) Lady Macbeth

Act 2

- "Is this a dagger I see before me, the handle towards my hand?" (2.1) Macbeth
- "Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead are but as pictures" (2.2) Lady Macbeth
- "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?" (2.2) Macbeth
- "A little water clears us of this deed" (2.2) Lady Macbeth
- "Wake Duncan with thy knocking, I would thou couldst." (2.2) Macbeth
- "Oh horror! Horror! Horror! Tongue nor heart cannot conceive, nor name thee" (2.3) Macduff
- "There's daggers in men's smiles" (2.3) Donalbain

Act 3

- "Thou has it all now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all, as the weird sisters promised, and I fear though play'st most foully for't." (3.1) Banquo "To be thus is nothing, but to be safely thus. Our fears in Banquo stick deep" (3.1) Macbeth
- "Of full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife" (3.2) Macbeth
- "Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, till thou applaud the deed" (3.2) Macbeth
- "Thou canst not say I did it; never shake they gory locks at me" (3.4) Macbeth
- "My lord is often thus, and hath been from his youth" (3.4) Lady Macbeth
- "I am in blood stepp'd so far, that, should I wade no more, returning were as tedious as go o'ver" (3.4) Macbeth



Act 4

- "Something wicked this way comes" (4.1) Witches
- "Speak, I charge you" (4.1) Macbeth
- "From this moment, the very firstlings of my heart shall be the firstling of my hand" (4.1) Macbeth
- "The castle of Macduff I will surprise; seize upon Fife." (4.1) Macbeth
- "Let grieve convert to anger. Blunt not the heart, enrage it" (4.3) Malcolm
- "Macbeth is ripe for shaking, and the powers above put on their instrument" (4.3) Malcolm

Act 5

- "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!... Will these hands ne'er be clean?" (5.1) Lady Macbeth
- "All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand" (5.1) Lady Macbeth
- "My name's Macbeth" (5.7) Macbeth
- "Turn, hell-hound, turn...I have no words; my sword is my voice" (5.8) Macduff
- "I bear a charmed life which must not yield to one of woman born" (5.8) Macbeth
- "Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripp'd" (5.8) Macduff
- "I will to yield to kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet" (5.8) Macbeth
- "Behold where stands the usurper's head" (5.9) Macduff
- "His fiend-like queen who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands took off her life" (5.9) Malcolm.

THEMES	
Ambition	The witches' prophecies spur Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to fulfil their ambitions, but they never make them do anything.
Fate & Free Will	An interesting debate is to consider what made it all happen – was it fate, or was it a Macbeth's deliberate choices?
Good & Evil	The battle between good and evil can be seen throughout the play; this is first established in 1:1 through the witches' chant: 'fair is foul. Foul is fair'. The use of paradox helps to establish this further throughout the play.
Appearance & Reality	Hypocrisy, pretence, deception all result in this theme of appearance and reality. This is also repeatedly presented through hallucinations.
Light & Darkness	Links to the idea of good and evil. Light connotes good and the divine. Darkness the opposite. Both the witches and Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are often staged in dark lighting.
Guilt	Guilt is an important theme in the play and is seen both in Macbeth through his internal conflict and the symbolism of blood, and later, also in L. Macbeth.
Gender	The portrayal of L. Macbeth is interesting as she goes against the natural order and grain of society. She subverts the gender stereotypes of the time.

PATTERNS & MOTIFS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature and the natural world Blood Light and dark Sleep Religious imagery 	 

LANGUAGE & TONE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euphemisms iambic pentameter iambic tetrameter Imagery Monologue Paradox Rhetoric Soliloquy Semantic Field Symbolism 	 

STRUCTURE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronological structure Journey through course of hero's downfall Majority of play written in play form: often in blank verse or iambic pentameter. 	<p>Useful websites: YouTube: Mr. Bruff; https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/character-analysis-lady-macbeth https://genderinmacbeth.weebly.com/men http://www.world-history-education-resources.com/jacobean-era/jacobean-gender-era-roles.html</p>