

## **Year 10 Revision List: Macbeth Assessment – Literature Paper 1**

For your Macbeth assessment, you will be required to write an essay about the character of Macbeth.

You must write a suitable introduction (Genre, viewpoint, AO3, structure, intention, anchor to question); analyse a given extract; write about the theme of the supernatural in the rest of the play; write a suitable conclusion summarising Shakespeare's main intentions.

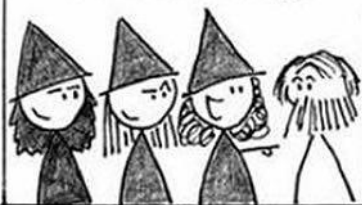
You will be given 50 minutes to write a fully developed essay.

### **What do I need to revise?**

- Recall who was on the throne at the time 'Macbeth' was written – King James I
- Name the era 'Macbeth' was written in – Jacobean era, 1606
- State when the play was set - Scotland
- Explain the role of women at the time – It was patriarchal society; women were expected to be subservient; Lady Macbeth subverts stereotypical Jacobean gender roles
- Explain what happened in the gunpowder plot - failed assassination attempt against King James I by a group of English Catholics led by Robert Catesby who sought regime change in England after decades of religious persecution against Catholics
- Confidently link this context to the play
- Name the writer of the play: William Shakespeare
- Recall key details about the writer's life
- Explain the writer's possible reasons behind writing the play (core concepts):
  1. To strengthen King James' rule and end political chaos by showing the dangers of killing a king. (Regicide)
  2. To show how harmful unchecked ambition can be.
  3. To question Jacobean views on what it means to be masculine and feminine.
  4. To support Jacobean fears of the supernatural by emphasizing the importance of the natural order.
- Recall the key events and plot details of Act 1
- Recall the key events and plot details of Act 2
- Recall the key events and plot details of Act 3
- Recall the key events and plot details of Act 4

Plot summary in cartoon form

Three witches tell Macbeth he will become king.



Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth he will become king.



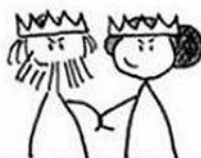
Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth to kill the king.



Macbeth kills the king.



Macbeth becomes king.



Macbeth has his friend Banquo murdered.



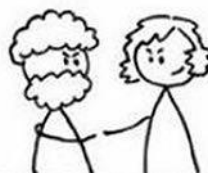
Macbeth gets more prophecies from the witches.



Macbeth kills the family of Macduff, Thane of Fife.



Macduff joins up with Malcolm, son of the dead king.



Lady Macbeth goes mad and dies.



Macduff and Malcolm dress up like trees and attack Macbeth.



Macduff kills Macbeth.



Adjective to describe Macbeth's character in the play:

Ambitious

Tyrannical

Duplicitous

Guilty

Murderous

Loyal

Valiant

Paranoid

Desperate

Key quotes linked to the supernatural:

- "Brandished steel smoked with bloody execution" The metaphor "smoked" suggests Macbeth's sword is soaked in blood, portraying him as a skilled soldier. "Bloody" symbolizes masculine violence and valor, while "execution" implies his killings are sanctioned and not immoral.
- "Let not light see my black and deep desires" - After Duncan names Malcolm heir, Macbeth reveals his duplicity. Light symbolizes purity, while darkness represents evil. Macbeth's murderous thoughts signal his turn toward darkness, defying natural order.
- "I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent but vaulting ambition" The horse-riding metaphor shows Macbeth's only motive to kill Duncan is his unchecked "vaulting ambition," foreshadowing disaster. This ambition is his tragic flaw (hamartia).
- "Is this a dagger I see before me, the handle toward my hand?" The dagger symbolizes Macbeth's murderous intent, shifting from an honorable sword to a deceptive weapon. Its position suggests Macbeth is ready to seize it. When he pulls out a real dagger mid-soliloquy, it shows his resolve to act.
- "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?" Blood symbolizes Macbeth's guilt. He wonders if Neptune, the God of the Sea, can cleanse his guilt, concluding that the blood would stain the oceans, symbolizing the permanence of his crime.
- "Upon my head, they placed a fruitless crown" The plant imagery reflects that Macbeth's reign will not prosper, as he has no heirs. His "fruitless" crown will pass to someone else, likely Banquo's children, causing Macbeth to fear Banquo.
- "O full of scorpions is my mind" Macbeth uses a metaphor to tell Lady Macbeth he is losing his sanity due to Banquo and Fleance still being alive. "Scorpions" symbolize danger, death, and the threat Banquo poses to Macbeth.
- 'Bleed, bleed poor country! Great tyranny!' The personification of Scotland suggests it is victim to Macbeth's tyranny. The repetition of 'bleed' emphasises the savagery and violence of Macbeth's rule.