

ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MACBETH: 24 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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PERCENTAGE

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STEMUP

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

The play opens with the three witches meeting on a "blasted heath" before they encounter Macbeth.

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.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the Witches in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, the play opens with the three witches meeting on a "blasted heath" before they encounter Macbeth.

Explain the importance of the supernatural elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how the supernatural is presented
- the effects the supernatural has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

The play opens with the three witches meeting on a "blasted heath" before they encounter Macbeth.

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.

- (a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the supernatural in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

- (b) In this extract, the play opens with the three witches meeting on a "blasted heath" before they encounter Macbeth.

Explain the importance of the Witches elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how the Witches is presented
- the effects the Witches has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Duncan has just announced that his son Malcolm will be Prince of Cumberland - heir to the throne. Macbeth reacts privately.

MACBETH

[Aside] The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;
Let not light see my black and deep desires:
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Duncan has just announced that his son Malcolm will be Prince of Cumberland - heir to the throne. Macbeth reacts privately.
Explain the importance of unchecked ambition elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how unchecked ambition is presented
- the effects unchecked ambition has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Duncan has just announced that his son Malcolm will be Prince of Cumberland - heir to the throne. Macbeth reacts privately.

MACBETH

[Aside] The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;
Let not light see my black and deep desires:
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents unchecked ambition in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Duncan has just announced that his son Malcolm will be Prince of Cumberland - heir to the throne. Macbeth reacts privately.
Explain the importance of the character of Macbeth elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Macbeth is presented
- the effects Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 6 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle, unaware of what is being planned for him, and is greeted by Lady Macbeth.

DUNCAN

This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

BANQUO

This guest of summer,
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve,
By his loved mansionry, that the heaven's breath
Smells wooingly here: no jutty, frieze,
Buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird
Hath made his pendent bed and procreant cradle:
Where they most breed and haunt, I have observed,
The air is delicate.

Enter LADY MACBETH

DUNCAN

See, see, our honour'd hostess!

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Duncan in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle, unaware of what is being planned for him, and is greeted by Lady Macbeth.

Explain the importance of dramatic irony elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how dramatic irony is presented
- the effects dramatic irony has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 6 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle, unaware of what is being planned for him, and is greeted by Lady Macbeth.

DUNCAN

This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

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This guest of summer,
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Buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird
Hath made his pendent bed and procreant cradle:
Where they most breed and haunt, I have observed,
The air is delicate.

Enter LADY MACBETH

DUNCAN

See, see, our honour'd hostess!

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents dramatic irony in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle, unaware of what is being planned for him, and is greeted by Lady Macbeth.

Explain the importance of the character of Duncan elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Duncan is presented
- the effects Duncan has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Moments later, Lady Macbeth takes charge, returning the daggers to the scene of the crime herself while Macbeth panics.

LADY MACBETH

Infirm of purpose!

Give me the daggers: the sleeping and the dead

Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood

That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,

I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,

For it must seem their guilt.

Exit. Knocking within

MACBETH

Whence is that knocking?

How is't with me, when every noise appals me?

What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine eyes.

Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood

Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather

The multitudinous seas incarnadine,

Making the green one red.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Lady Macbeth in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, moments later, Lady Macbeth takes charge, returning the daggers to the scene of the crime herself while Macbeth panics.

Explain the importance of blood elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how blood is presented
- the effects blood has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Moments later, Lady Macbeth takes charge, returning the daggers to the scene of the crime herself while Macbeth panics.

LADY MACBETH

Infirm of purpose!

Give me the daggers: the sleeping and the dead

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MACBETH

Whence is that knocking?

How is't with me, when every noise appals me?

What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine eyes.

Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood

Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather

The multitudinous seas incarnadine,

Making the green one red.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents blood in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, moments later, Lady Macbeth takes charge, returning the daggers to the scene of the crime herself while Macbeth panics.

Explain the importance of the character of Lady Macbeth elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Lady Macbeth is presented
- the effects Lady Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

Lennox describes the strange events of the previous night to Macbeth.

LENNOX

The night has been unruly: where we lay,
Our chimneys were blown down; and, as they say,
Lamentings heard i' the air; strange screams of death,
And prophesying with accents terrible
Of dire combustion and confused events
New hatch'd to the woeful time.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Lennox in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, lennox describes the strange events of the previous night to Macbeth.
Explain the importance of nature reflecting disorder elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how nature reflecting disorder is presented
- the effects nature reflecting disorder has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

Lennox describes the strange events of the previous night to Macbeth.

LENNOX

The night has been unruly: where we lay,
Our chimneys were blown down; and, as they say,
Lamentings heard i' the air; strange screams of death,
And prophesying with accents terrible
Of dire combustion and confused events
New hatch'd to the woeful time.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents nature reflecting disorder in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, lennox describes the strange events of the previous night to Macbeth.
Explain the importance of the character of Lennox elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Lennox is presented
- the effects Lennox has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Macbeth has summoned two murderers and is persuading them that Banquo, not Macbeth, is responsible for their misfortunes.

MACBETH

Know

That it was he in the times past which held you
So under fortune, which you thought had been
Our innocent self: this I made good to you
In our last conference, pass'd in probation with you,
How you were borne in hand, how cross'd, the instruments,
Who wrought with them, and all things else that might
To half a soul and to a notion crazed
Say 'Thus did Banquo.'

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Macbeth has summoned two murderers and is persuading them that Banquo, not Macbeth, is responsible for their misfortunes.
Explain the importance of the normalisation of violence elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how the normalisation of violence is presented
- the effects the normalisation of violence has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Macbeth has summoned two murderers and is persuading them that Banquo, not Macbeth, is responsible for their misfortunes.

MACBETH

Know

That it was he in the times past which held you
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Our innocent self: this I made good to you
In our last conference, pass'd in probation with you,
How you were borne in hand, how cross'd, the instruments,
Who wrought with them, and all things else that might
To half a soul and to a notion crazed
Say 'Thus did Banquo.'

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the normalisation of violence in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Macbeth has summoned two murderers and is persuading them that Banquo, not Macbeth, is responsible for their misfortunes.
Explain the importance of the character of Macbeth elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Macbeth is presented
- the effects Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Later in the banquet scene, after the ghost of Banquo has vanished a second time, Macbeth speaks with Lady Macbeth about what he has become.

MACBETH

It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood;
Stones have been known to move and trees to speak;
Augurs and understood relations have
By magot-pies and choughs and rooks brought forth
The secret'st man of blood. What is the night?

LADY MACBETH

Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

MACBETH

I am in blood
Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, later in the banquet scene, after the ghost of Banquo has vanished a second time, Macbeth speaks with Lady Macbeth about what he has become.
Explain the importance of guilt and blood imagery elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how guilt and blood imagery is presented
- the effects guilt and blood imagery has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Later in the banquet scene, after the ghost of Banquo has vanished a second time, Macbeth speaks with Lady Macbeth about what he has become.

MACBETH

It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood;
Stones have been known to move and trees to speak;
Augurs and understood relations have
By magot-pies and choughs and rooks brought forth
The secret'st man of blood. What is the night?

LADY MACBETH

Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

MACBETH

I am in blood
Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go o'er.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents guilt and blood imagery in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, later in the banquet scene, after the ghost of Banquo has vanished a second time, Macbeth speaks with Lady Macbeth about what he has become.
Explain the importance of the character of Macbeth elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Macbeth is presented
- the effects Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Macbeth returns to the witches, demanding more prophecies. The apparitions warn and deceive him at once.

First Apparition: An armed Head

MACBETH

Tell me, thou unknown power, -

FIRST WITCH

He knows thy thought:

Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

FIRST APPARITION

Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware Macduff;

Beware the thane of Fife. Dismiss me: enough.

[Descends]

MACBETH

Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks;

Thou hast harp'd my fear aright: but one word more, -

FIRST WITCH

He will not be commanded: here's another,

More potent than the first.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Macbeth returns to the witches, demanding more prophecies. The apparitions warn and deceive him at once.

Explain the importance of the witches elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how the witches are presented
- the effects the witches have within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

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FIRST APPARITION

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MACBETH

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Thou hast harp'd my fear aright: but one word more, -

FIRST WITCH

He will not be commanded: here's another,

More potent than the first.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the witches in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Macbeth returns to the witches, demanding more prophecies. The apparitions warn and deceive him at once.

Explain the importance of the character of Macbeth elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Macbeth is presented
- the effects Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Murderers sent by Macbeth arrive at Macduff's castle and kill Lady Macduff's young son before her eyes.

SON

He has kill'd me, mother:

Run away, I pray you!

[Dies]

Exit LADY MACDUFF, crying 'Murder!' and pursued by the Murderers

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, murderers sent by Macbeth arrive at Macduff's castle and kill Lady Macduff's young son before her eyes.

Explain the importance of the destruction of innocence elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how the destruction of innocence is presented
- the effects the destruction of innocence has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Murderers sent by Macbeth arrive at Macduff's castle and kill Lady Macduff's young son before her eyes.

SON

He has kill'd me, mother:

Run away, I pray you!

[Dies]

Exit LADY MACDUFF, crying 'Murder!' and pursued by the Murderers

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the destruction of innocence in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, murderers sent by Macbeth arrive at Macduff's castle and kill Lady Macduff's young son before her eyes.

Explain the importance of the character of Macbeth elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Macbeth is presented
- the effects Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Having tested Macduff's loyalty, Malcolm finally reveals the truth about himself.

MALCOLM

Macduff, this noble passion,
Child of integrity, hath from my soul
Wiped the black scruples, reconciled my thoughts
To thy good truth and honour.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Malcolm in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, having tested Macduff's loyalty, Malcolm finally reveals the truth about himself.

Explain the importance of loyalty and trust elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how loyalty and trust is presented
- the effects loyalty and trust has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

Having tested Macduff's loyalty, Malcolm finally reveals the truth about himself.

MALCOLM

Macduff, this noble passion,
Child of integrity, hath from my soul
Wiped the black scruples, reconciled my thoughts
To thy good truth and honour.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents loyalty and trust in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, having tested Macduff's loyalty, Malcolm finally reveals the truth about himself.

Explain the importance of the character of Malcolm elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Malcolm is presented
- the effects Malcolm has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

The Doctor reports to Macbeth on Lady Macbeth's condition. Macbeth responds with a demand that reveals his own state of mind.

MACBETH

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?

DOCTOR

Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

MACBETH

Throw physic to the dogs; I'll none of it.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, the Doctor reports to Macbeth on Lady Macbeth's condition. Macbeth responds with a demand that reveals his own state of mind.
Explain the importance of guilt elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how guilt is presented
- the effects guilt has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer both parts of the question.

The Doctor reports to Macbeth on Lady Macbeth's condition. Macbeth responds with a demand that reveals his own state of mind.

MACBETH

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?

DOCTOR

Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

MACBETH

Throw physic to the dogs; I'll none of it.

- (a)** Explore how Shakespeare presents guilt in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

- (b)** In this extract, the Doctor reports to Macbeth on Lady Macbeth's condition. Macbeth responds with a demand that reveals his own state of mind.
Explain the importance of the character of Macbeth elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Macbeth is presented
- the effects Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

Immediately after his "Tomorrow" speech, a Messenger arrives with the news that Birnam Wood does indeed seem to be advancing on the castle.

MACBETH

If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,
Till famine cling thee: if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much.
I pull in resolution, and begin
To doubt the equivocation of the fiend
That lies like truth: 'Fear not, till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane:' and now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, immediately after his "Tomorrow" speech, a Messenger arrives with the news that Birnam Wood does indeed seem to be advancing on the castle.
Explain the importance of fear and desperation elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how fear and desperation is presented
- the effects fear and desperation has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Macbeth

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

Immediately after his "Tomorrow" speech, a Messenger arrives with the news that Birnam Wood does indeed seem to be advancing on the castle.

MACBETH

If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,
Till famine cling thee: if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much.
I pull in resolution, and begin
To doubt the equivocation of the fiend
That lies like truth: 'Fear not, till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane:' and now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents fear and desperation in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, immediately after his "Tomorrow" speech, a Messenger arrives with the news that Birnam Wood does indeed seem to be advancing on the castle.
Explain the importance of the character of Macbeth elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Macbeth is presented
- the effects Macbeth has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)