***Macbeth***

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

**At this point in the play Macbeth is under siege from the English army.**

|  |
| --- |
| **MACBETH**  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? Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know All mortal consequences have pronounced me thus: 'Fear not, Macbeth; no man that's born of woman Shall e'er have power upon thee.' Then fly, false thanes, And mingle with the English epicures: The mind I sway by and the heart I bear Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear.  *Enter a Servant*  The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon! Where got'st thou that goose look? |

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

**Write about:**

* **How Shakespeare presents Macbeth is this speech.**
* **How Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.**

**[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**

***Macbeth***

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

**At this point in the play Lady Macbeth is awaiting the arrival of King Duncan at her home.**

|  |
| --- |
| **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 th’access and passage to remorse,  That no compunctious visitings of nature  Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between  Th’ effect and it. Come to my woman’s breasts,  And take my milk for gall, you murd’ring 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!’ |

**Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth the driving force for the murder of King Duncan.**

**Write about:**

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

**[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**

***Macbeth***

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

**At this point in the play Macbeth is debating if he should kill King Duncan.**

|  |
| --- |
| **MACBETH**  If it were done when ’tis done, then ’twere well  It were done quickly. If th’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 judgement here, that we but teach  Bloody instructions which, being taught, return  To plague th’inventor. This even-handed justice  Commends th’ingredience of our poisoned 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. |

**Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Macbeth is presented as a character who abandons his sense of right and wrong.**

**Write about:**

* **How Shakespeare presents Macbeth is this speech.**
* **How Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.**

**[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**

**Act 1**

Banquo and Macbeth react to the witches’ prophecies:

**BANQUO**

Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear

Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth,

Are ye fantastical, or that indeed

Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner

You greet with present grace and great prediction

Of noble having and of royal hope,

That he seems rapt withal: to me you speak not.

If you can look into the seeds of time,

And say which grain will grow and which will not,

Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear

Your favours nor your hate.

**MACBETH**

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:

By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis;

But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,

A prosperous gentleman; and to be king

Stands not within the prospect of belief,

No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence

You owe this strange intelligence? or why

Upon this blasted heath you stop our way

With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.

*Witches vanish*

How is Macbeth presented as an irrational character in this scene and elsewhere in the play?

**LADY MACBETH**

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be

What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature;

It is too full o' the milk of human kindness

To catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great;

Art not without ambition, but without

The illness should attend it: what thou wouldst highly,

That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,

And yet wouldst wrongly win: thou'ldst have, great Glamis,

That which cries 'Thus thou must do, if thou have it;

And that which rather thou dost fear to do

Than wishest should be undone.' Hie thee hither,

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,

Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem

To have thee crown'd withal.

How is Lady Macbeth presented as an ambitious character in this scene and elsewhere in the play?

Synonyms for ‘ambitious’:

Determined

Bent upon

Aspiring

Desiring

Eager

Intent

Striving

**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'ld 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.

How is Macbeth is presented as a confused character in this scene and elsewhere in the play?

**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?

**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.

How is Lady Macbeth presented as a manipulative character in this scene and elsewhere in the play?

**Act 2**

Act 2 Scene 1: Macbeth is dismissive of the witches in front of Banquo: ‘I think not of them’.

**MACBETH**

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.

How is Macbeth presented as a disturbed character in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**MACBETH**

I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

**LADY MACBETH**

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.

Did not you speak?

**MACBETH**

When?

**LADY MACBETH**

Now.

**MACBETH**

As I descended?

**LADY MACBETH**

Ay.

**MACBETH**

Hark!

Who lies i' the second chamber?

**LADY MACBETH**

Donalbain.

**MACBETH**

This is a sorry sight.

*Looking on his hands*

**LADY MACBETH**

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

How are Macbeth and Lady Macbeth presented as nervous characters in this scene and elsewhere in the play?

**LADY MACBETH**

Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,

You do unbend your noble strength, to think

So brainsickly of things. Go get some water,

And wash this filthy witness from your hand.

Why did you bring these daggers from the place?

They must lie there: go carry them; and smear

The sleepy grooms with blood.

**MACBETH**

I'll go no more:

I am afraid to think what I have done;

Look on't again I dare not.

**LADY MACBETH**

Infirm of purpose!

Give me the daggers: the sleeping and the dead

Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood

That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,

I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;

For it must seem their guilt.

How is Lady Macbeth presented as controlling in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**MACDUFF**

O horror, horror, horror! Tongue nor heart

Cannot conceive nor name thee!

**MACBETH** **LENNOX**

What's the matter.

**MACDUFF**

Confusion now hath made his masterpiece!

Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope

The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence

The life o' the building!

**MACBETH**

What is 't you say? the life?

**LENNOX**

Mean you his majesty?

**MACDUFF**

Approach the chamber, and destroy your sight

With a new Gorgon: do not bid me speak;

See, and then speak yourselves.

*Exeunt MACBETH and LENNOX*

Awake, awake!

Ring the alarum-bell. Murder and treason!

Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!

Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,

And look on death itself! up, up, and see

The great doom's image! Malcolm! Banquo!

As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprites,

To countenance this horror! Ring the bell.

*Bell rings*

How is Macduff presented as a loyal character in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**MACBETH**

Who can be wise, amazed, temperate and furious,

Loyal and neutral, in a moment? No man:

The expedition my violent love

Outrun the pauser, reason. Here lay Duncan,

His silver skin laced with his golden blood;

And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature

For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the murderers,

Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers

Unmannerly breech'd with gore: who could refrain,

That had a heart to love, and in that heart

Courage to make 's love known?

How is Macbeth presented as deceitful in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**Act 3**

**MACBETH**

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,

How is Macbeth presented as mistrustful in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**LADY MACBETH**

Sit, worthy friends: my lord is often thus,

And hath been from his youth: pray you, keep seat;

The fit is momentary; upon a thought

He will again be well: if much you note him,

You shall offend him and extend his passion:

Feed, and regard him not. Are you a man?

**MACBETH**

Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that

Which might appal the devil.

**LADY MACBETH**

O proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear:

This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said,

Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts,

Impostors to true fear, would well become

A woman's story at a winter's fire,

Authorized by her grandam. Shame itself!

Why do you make such faces? When all's done,

You look but on a stool.

How is Lady Macbeth presented as in control in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**First Murderer**

Where is your husband?

**LADY MACDUFF**

I hope, in no place so unsanctified

Where such as thou mayst find him.

**First Murderer**

He's a traitor.

**Son**

Thou liest, thou shag-hair'd villain!

**First Murderer**

What, you egg!

*Stabbing him*

Young fry of treachery!

**Son**

He has kill'd me, mother:

Run away, I pray you!

*Dies*

*Exit LADY MACDUFF, crying 'Murder*

How is Macbeth presented as a villain in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**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.

How is Lady Macbeth presented as guilty in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**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.

How is Macbeth presented as pessimistic in this extract and elsewhere in the play?

**MACBETH**

Thou wast born of woman

But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,

Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born.

*Exit*

*Alarums. Enter MACDUFF*

**MACDUFF**

That way the noise is. Tyrant, show thy face!

If thou be'st slain and with no stroke of mine,

My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.

I cannot strike at wretched kerns, whose arms

Are hired to bear their staves: either thou, Macbeth,

Or else my sword with an unbatter'd edge

I sheathe again undeeded. There thou shouldst be;

By this great clatter, one of greatest note

Seems bruited. Let me find him, fortune!

And more I beg not.

*Exit. Alarums*

How is Macbeth presented as a villain and Macduff presented as a hero in this extract and elsewhere in the play?