**Act One Scene Five**

*We meet Lady Macbeth, who is reading a letter from Macbeth, telling her about the witches’ prophecy. She decides that they will kill King Duncan whilst he is a guest at their castle. Macbeth enters and Lady Macbeth sets about convincing him to murder Duncan.*

(from [www.elizabethanenglandlife.com](http://www.elizabethanenglandlife.com)): Men assumed a dominant position in [Jacobean] society. It was the man of the house who worked and fetched for food to keep his family alive. Apart from being the sole bread earner of the family, the eldest male member was the head of the house. Everyone had to obey him and do as was being told… Jacobean women continued to live a life that was sub-ordinate to men. They were supposed to obey what was told to them. The main responsibility of married women was to take care of the household matters and raise children.

**AO2, AO3 – How much does Lady Macbeth follow the traditional model of a Jacobean woman? Annotate the following extracts, thinking about how Shakespeare is using language to present her to the audience:**

Hie thee hither,  
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

look like the innocent flower,  
But be the serpent under't.

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