Literature Paper 1:
Macbeth
by William Shakespeare
a) Act 1 Cloze Activity

Fill in the blanks to test your knowledge on what happens in each chapter

King Duncan hears how ___________ has been a brave warrior whilst fighting the Norwegians. Duncan gives Macbeth the title of Thane of ___________ as reward for his valour. The old Thane is sentenced to death for being a traitor.

On their way back from battle, Macbeth and Banquo meet the ___________ who tell Macbeth that he will become the new Thane of Cawdor and also the new ___________ of Scotland. The weird sisters tell Banquo that his descendants will be the future ___________ of Scotland. Macbeth is not sure whether this is true, but he is soon told by a messenger that he is now the new ___________. This seems like the first part of the prophecy has come true.

Macbeth sends a letter to his wife, ________________ about the witches' predictions. She is excited about becoming queen, but fears that Macbeth is not ___________ enough to kill Duncan. When Macbeth arrives home she tries to ___________ him to kill Duncan. Macbeth eventually agrees with her.

Duncan arrives at ___________ castle and is greeted by the hosts. They hold a feast and most people get drunk. Macbeth is _________ about killing Duncan and decides to abandon his plan. Macbeth believes that Duncan is a _________ king and he comments that Duncan has often ___________ Macbeth. Lady Macbeth is angry that Macbeth has abandoned his plan to kill Duncan and calls him a ___________. Macbeth decides to go through with the plan to murder Duncan.

b) Act 1 Short Answer Questions:

Name:
Class:

ing: rulers, Lady Macbeth, king, coward
good, Macbeth, persuade, ambitious, thane
weird sisters, unsure, Macbeth’s, praised, Cawdor
1. What news does the blood-stained captain bring to the king at the beginning of the Act? What is the result of this news?
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2. What is the witches' prophecy to Macbeth and Banquo?
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3. How does Banquo's reaction to the witches differ from Macbeth's? What does this suggest about each man's character?
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4. Describe the differences in the demeanour of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. How does this relate to Elizabethan gender roles?
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Act 2 Revision

a) Act 2 Cloze Activity
Fill in the blanks to test your knowledge on what happens in each chapter

Later that night, whilst approaching Duncan’s room, Macbeth sees a ____________ floating before his eyes. He follows the dagger to Duncan’s room. Macbeth creeps inside and _________________ him in cold blood. Lady
Macbeth meets him in the hall and ________ him for showing fear. When she sees the __________ daggers in Macbeth’s hands she _________ them to ___________ the sleeping grooms with __________

Macduff arrives at the castle and discovers the _______________ and raises the alarm. Duncan’s sons, ___________ and ___________ quickly leave Scotland because they might be ___________ of killing their father. Macduff does not __________ Macbeth and suspects that Macbeth might have something to do with it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>murders</th>
<th>Donalbain</th>
<th>accused</th>
<th>dead king</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>believe</td>
<td>mocks</td>
<td>smear</td>
<td>bloody</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malcolm</td>
<td>dagger</td>
<td>blood</td>
<td>snatches</td>
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b) Act 2 Short Answer Questions:

1. What vision does Macbeth have at the beginning of Act 2? Why do you think this hallucination occurs?
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   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. How does Lady Macbeth react to Macbeth after the murder? What does this reveal about their relationship?
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   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

3. How do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth cover up their guilt the following morning?
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   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
4. Where do Malcolm and Donalbain decide to go and why?

**Act 3 Revision**

**a) Act 3 Cloze Activity**
*Fill in the blanks to test your knowledge on what happens in each chapter*

Macbeth is made ________ of Scotland. The witches' prophecy makes Macbeth believe that he must kill ________ and his son ___________, because the witches ___________ that Banquo's descendants would be _________. Macbeth orders two ___________ to carry out the job. However, ___________ escapes and this makes Macbeth very angry and concerned that the witches' predictions could come _________.

Macbeth has a banquet and sets a place at the table for ___________ knowing full well that he is _________. However, he sees the ___________ of Banquo in the seat left for him. Macbeth shouts in _________ at the ghost. His guests suspect that he has a guilty ___________.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>kings</th>
<th>Banquo</th>
<th>murderers</th>
<th>Fleance</th>
<th>dead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banquo</td>
<td>ghost</td>
<td>true</td>
<td>Fleance</td>
<td>king</td>
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<tr>
<td>conscience</td>
<td>prophesied</td>
<td>horror</td>
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**c) Act 3 Short Answer Questions:**

1. How and why does Macbeth arrange Banquo's murder?

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2. What role does Lady Macbeth play in Banquo’s murder? How does this suggest a change in their relationship? Why might this change have occurred?

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3. How is Fleance’s escape a turning point in the play? What impact do you think this has on Macbeth’s state of mind and why?

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4. After seeing Banquo’s ghost, Macbeth says “Blood will have blood”. What do you think this means and why is it significant to the play?

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Act 4 Revision

a) Act 4 Cloze Activity
Fill in the blanks to test your knowledge on what happens in each chapter

Macbeth decides to pay the witches another visit and they show him three _______________. The first is an _______________ (this represents Macbeth’s own severed head, later), the second is a _______________ (who is likely to be Macduff torn from his mother’s womb), and the third is a _______________ with a tree in its hand (this is meant to represent Malcolm and Birnam Wood). The first apparition tells Macbeth to beware _____________, the second that
he will never be defeated by anyone born of ____________, and the third tells Macbeth that he will never be beaten until ____________ comes to Dunsinane.

Macduff is sure that Macbeth has murdered Duncan and decides to join ____________ in England. He raises an army of _______________ Englishmen in order to kill Macbeth and reclaim the throne.

In rage that Macduff has fled the country, Macbeth orders his henchmen to kill Macduff’s ____________ and this act disgusts his followers, who start to desert him.

**armoured head**  Macduff  **Malcolm**  Birnam wood  family  **bloody child**  ten thousand  crowned child  apparitions  woman

b) Act 4 Short Answer Questions:

1. What has Macbeth come to ask the witches? How do they answer?
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___________________________________________________________________________
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2. How has Macbeth changed since he last saw the witches? How has his moral character deteriorated? Do you think the witches are to blame?
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3. Why do you think Shakespeare had Macbeth murder Macduff’s wife and children? What does this symbolise about his character?
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4. According to Malcolm and Macduff, what has happened to Scotland during Macbeth’s reign? What do you think Shakespeare’s message about kingship is here?
Act 5 Revision

a) Act 5 Cloze Activity
Fill in the blanks to test your knowledge on what happens in each chapter

Lady Macbeth has been driven into ____________ with __________ and ___________. She obsessively ____________________ as she talks in her sleep about ____________________ .

Macbeth is preparing for battle with the English army. He feels ____________ due to the ____________ . Macbeth is informed that Lady Macbeth has ________________, and he begins to question the point of ____________.

A messenger tells the king that the wood is on its way to ______________ and Macbeth becomes ________________.

When the army arrives at the castle, Macbeth recklessly attacks and ______ many men because he believes that no one can kill him. However, Macduff tells Macbeth that he was not born of ____________ because he was born of ____________. They start to fight. Macduff ____________ Macbeth and his ____________ is displayed for everyone to see. ____________ is crowned the true king of Scotland.

guilt defeats prophecies existence woman
washes her hands Macbeth’s betrayal Dunsinane
madness grief worried invincible head
committed suicide kills caesarean Malcolm
a) Act 5 Short Answer Questions:

1. Why do you think Shakespeare shows Lady Macbeth sleepwalking?

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2. What opinion do the Scottish lords now have of Macbeth and why?

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3. In Act 5 Macbeth talks a lot about his perspective on life. What do these speeches reveal about his state of mind?

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4. Why do you think Shakespeare makes Lady Macbeth die at this point in the play? What does Macbeth’s response reveal about his state of mind?

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5. Why does Macduff not take power for himself at the end of the play? What message do you think Shakespeare is trying to give us here?

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___________________________________________________________________________
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 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! Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as an ambitious character in the play.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as an ambitious character in the play as a whole.
Key Scene (A1S7)

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

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
5  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 judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
10  To plague the inventor: this even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips.

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as corrupted by ambition.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as corrupted by ambition in the play as a whole.
Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth’s ambition as the main reason for his downfall.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth’s ambition in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth’s ambition in the play as a whole.
Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 3 and then answer the question that follows.

**MACBETH**

[Aside] Two truths are told,
As happy prologues to the swelling act
Of the imperial theme. — I thank you, gentlemen.
Aside

This supernatural soliciting
Cannot be ill, cannot be good: if ill,
Why hath it given me earnest of success,
Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion

Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,
Against the use of nature? Present fears
Are less than horrible imaginings:
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man that function

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the witches' prophecies as the main reason for Macbeth's downfall in the play.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents prophecy in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents prophecy in the play as a whole.
Key Scene (A3S4)

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 4 and then answer the question that follows.

MACBETH

What man dare, I dare:

Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,
The arm’d rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger;
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves

Shall never tremble: or be alive again,

And dare me to the desert with thy sword;

If trembling I inhabit then, protest me

The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!

Unreal mockery, hence!

GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes

Why, so: being gone,

I am a man again. Pray you, sit still.

LADY MACBETH

You have displaced the mirth, broke the good

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents hallucinations as the symbol of Macbeth’s guilt.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents hallucinations in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents hallucinations in the play as a whole.
Power and Corruption: Key Scene (A3S1)

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 and then answer the question that follows.

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,

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as being obsessed with power in the play.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

Key Scene (A1S7)
Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 7 and then answer the question that follows.

MACBETH
Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.

LADY MACBETH
5 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

10 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,
how Shakespeare presents gender roles in the play as a whole