

English

GRAMMAR REVISION

2020

- **Write out each sentence making all corrections and adding all missing punctuation.**
- **Do NOT write on the sheets!**

Grammar Revision 1

Write out the following sentences into your book.

*Make sure you correct **every** mistake.*

1. i left liverpool to live in leeds but i still visit often
2. helen walked over to jane hello nice to see you she said?
3. this killer must be stopped shouted the detective
4. kevin travelled to america africa thailand holland and italy
5. my favourite take that song is babe but mary prefers i want you back
6. earlier this year we read macbeth by william shakespeare
7. why did you do that mike asked his mother (*write 2 versions, changing the speaker*)
8. is your shop still open id like some cheese sugar bleach soap and bread
9. tommys football team won the league and the cup
10. the familys caravan was brand new but there car was old rusty and slow
11. im so impatient i cant wait to go on holiday yelled anita
12. your just going to have to wait arent you said her mother

Check your work for accuracy - remember the rules for:

apostrophes

commas

capitals

question marks

speech marks

Grammar Sheet2

Rewrite the following adding any punctuation features needed.

1. why dont you help me i asked.
2. On my visit to america i went to california new york
oklahoma and miami
3. steven said i do'nt want to play football any moor
4. is it bad news i asked yes very bad news said sarah
5. michael seemed upset I think im lost he said can you
help me to get home
6. we couldnt be happier cried joan weve won the cup
7. johns friends waved they couldnt believe he was leaving
8. hello said mark i would like to buy bread milk cheese
coffee and sugar
9. goal shouted tim as the ball hit the net
10. the holiday was exciting thrilling memorable and fun

Grammar Revision 3

Copy the following and make all necessary corrections.

Do not write on the sheet.

1. *wednesday is a good day for me, But it is not my favourite*
2. *next Christmas i am hoping for a special present*
3. *surely without any argument the best shakespeare play is hamlet*
4. *how can a medium contact the dead asked sean all these séances are surely fake aren't thay*
5. *the character in the book buddy is named after the rock and roll singer buddy holly*
6. *listen stop talking sit up straight and start you work cried the teacher i am fed up with waiting*
7. *i usually shop at tesco morrisons or asda but recently i have started to shop elsewhere*
8. *do you know were i left my book asked helen im sorry i haven't a clue replied sally*
9. *i really love oliver twist by dickens the characters are so believable and entertaining remarked sam*
10. *can we really win the fa cup this season that would be such a great achievement wouldn't it sighed frances*

Grammar Revision 5

DO NOT WRITE ON THE SHEET.

*Rewrite the following in your book making **all** corrections.*

1. london is the capital city of england
2. could you move out of the way please mary i asked
3. i have been to wigan leeds liverpool and chester this month
4. can i help you i asked yes id like to see the manager she said
5. we could be the best team in europe shouted the manager
6. david cameron is the prime minister of england
7. in the zoo we saw tigers lions giraffes and zebras
8. do you really think brazil will win the cup david asked
9. hello how are you said jane im fine i replied
10. susan asked me to phone jane tommy and kevin

Grammar Revision

Rewrite the following making all necessary corrections.

1. cautiously the soldier paused for a minute peered around the barricade then moved on
2. waiting watching listening time dragging tortuously hoping for some form of escape
3. why was i here was it some form of punishment it was dreary miserable and the february winds chilled me to the bone
4. upbeat lively and full of energy the band alongside their new vocalist took to the stage
5. desperately i rummaged through my pockets hoping to find something that might help my keys a credit card some small coins a pen all useless
6. frankly i feel we need to improve in some key areas in order to achieve the targets set at the start of the year including punctuation basic grammar spelling and sentence variation stated the teacher
7. i would love to have witnessed the christmas eve truce in world war one were the british and german soldiers stopped fighting sang together and played football before returning to the trenches
8. peering from the rooftop the assassin checked the direction of the wind then ran through his inventory telescopic sight extra magazine of bullets knife passport motorcycle keys torch and lucky irish shamrock charm

9. *it was an antique piece of machinery probably dating from the mid victorian period certainly no later than 1875 judging from the components at the centre of the mechanism*
10. *this could possibly be the greatest romantic epic since romeo and juliet met in fair Verona so celebrate all of you exalted the director of the play*
11. *i studied mathematics until i was an expert although it was my weakest subject originally boasted mr smith before continuing now half the time i do equations half the time i do algebra and the other half i do decimals i was not so good with fractions mind you*
12. *i know a number of celebrities bragged mary for example a man i know is in the guinness book of records for being knocked unconscious the most times honestly he lives quite literally a stones throw away*
13. *do you have weird abstract thoughts all the time asked kevin i know i do for example i was walking on the beach the other day wondering why frisbies look bigger as they get closer and then it hit me*
14. *capitals let me think said ian the capital city of france is paris the capital of germany is berlin the capital of peru is lima and the capital of outer mongolia is ulan bator*
15. *the bible is the book that underpins the religious theories of the roman catholic faith whereas the koran supports the islamic system of beliefs*
16. *in the song new york new york frank sinatra sings of the virtues of a large city on the east coast of america though the song is popular in many other places*

Act 5, Scene 1 – Out Damned Spot

Doctor You see, her eyes are open.

Gentlewoman Ay, but their sense is shut.

Doctor What is it she does now? Look, how she rubs her hands.

Gentlewoman It is an accustomed action with her, to seem thus washing her hands: I have known her continue in this a quarter of an hour.

LADY MACBETH Yet here's a spot.

Doctor Hark! she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

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.

Doctor Go to, go to; you have known what you should not.

Gentlewoman She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that: heaven knows what she has known.

LADY MACBETH Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh, oh, oh!

Doctor What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.

Gentlewoman I would not have such a heart in my bosom for the dignity of the whole body.

Doctor Well, well, well,--

Gentlewoman Pray God it be, sir.

Doctor This disease is beyond my practise: yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds.

Activities:

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. Blood is a recurring motif in the play. What do you think the blood that Lady Macbeth imagines on her hand symbolises here?
3. Choose THREE words and completing single word analysis, highlighting connotations and explaining Shakespeare's language choices.
4. What do the dashes suggest about Lady Macbeth's delivery of her speech? What is her state of mind?
5. 'All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand' – Which line of Macbeth's is Lady Macbeth recalling here? (HINT: Act 2, Scene 2)
6. Note down anything else about Lady Macbeth in this scene that you find interesting.

EXTRA CHALLENGE: What can we, as an audience, learn about the corrupting influence of power, based on this scene?

INCREASING CHALLENGE

Act 2, Scene 1 – 'Is This A Dagger...?'

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. Now o'er the one halfworld
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtain'd sleep; witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings, and wither'd murder,
Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

A bell rings

I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

Activities:

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. What are the connotations of a 'dagger'? What does this suggest about Macbeth's state of mind?
3. 'Thou marshall'st me the way I was going' – Do you think Macbeth is in control of his own actions here? Explain your ideas with reference to the text.
4. 'Witchcraft celebrates' – What tone/atmosphere is established here? How would a contemporary audience, with their religious beliefs, react here?
5. Highlight language that relates to the senses. Macbeth talks about the sense of 'sight' throughout. Why?
6. 'On thy blade... gouts of blood' – Blood becomes a recurring motif throughout the play. What could blood represent and/or symbolise?
7. In the final lines, Macbeth imagines himself as murder itself. Do you think this is the part of the play where Macbeth transitions fully from a bad man to an evil man? Explain your ideas.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

Group 1

- 1) Read the poem carefully.
- 2) Working in a group, decide what is happening in the poem (meaning) and what the poet is trying to say to the reader (message).
- 3) Now, go through the poem and highlight all the techniques you can see.
- 4) Now, explain how these techniques help to get the **meaning and message** across to the reader.
- 5) Write a PETAZL paragraph based on one of your ideas.

'In The Orchard After Midnight' by Brian Patten

February is over - in the orchard after midnight,
muffled up against the cold, whiskey on the table,
head back, staring skywards-
I raise a glass to him- two months dead now-

The grass white, crunchy as sugar,
His ghost, moth quiet,
Steps out of nowhere and is beside me.

Blue shirt open at neck, fawn slacks, sandals-
No coat needed against this worldly frost,
He smiles, takes a chair opposite-

Falls through it, grimaces, nods OK, tries again.
Not used to this being dead stuff, he says,
Sits finally, breath smelling of ice and apples-

Underfoot, violets turn mauve in the moonlight,
Tendrils of river mist drift through him.
Somewhere an owl takes out its oboe.

I pour him one ghost glass after another-
We down the bottle – who cares if we get smashed now?
Celia is up in London- can't see us.

The stars are bubbling away nicely, he says.
It's Gods soup, spilt out across the heavens, I reply.
We exchange banter, his ghost and I; best of mates still.

For Adrian Mitchell

Group 2

- 1) Read the poem carefully.
- 2) Working in a group, decide what is happening in the poem (meaning) and what the poet is trying to say to the reader (message).
- 3) Now, go through the poem and highlight all the techniques you can see.
- 4) Now, explain how these techniques help to get the **meaning and message** across to the reader.
- 5) Write a PETAZL paragraph based on one of your ideas.

Anthem For Doomed Youth By Wilfred Owen

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells,
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.
What candles may be held to speed them all?
Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing down of blinds

Group 2

- 1) Read the poem carefully.
- 2) Working in a group, decide what is happening in the poem (meaning) and what the poet is trying to say to the reader (message).
- 3) Now, go through the poem and highlight all the techniques you can see.
- 4) Now, explain how these techniques help to get the **meaning and message** across to the reader.
- 5) Write a PETAZL paragraph based on one of your ideas.

'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may tread me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines

Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise

Group 4

- 1) Read the poem carefully.
- 2) Working in a group, decide what is happening in the poem (meaning) and what the poet is trying to say to the reader (message).
- 3) Now, go through the poem and highlight all the techniques you can see.
- 4) Now, explain how these techniques help to get the **meaning and message** across to the reader.
- 5) Write a PETAZL paragraph based on one of your ideas.

Jo Shapcott: The Great Storm

We rode it all night. We were not ourselves then.

Through the window everything was horizontal.
In cars and ships and woods, folk died.
Small trees scattered like matchsticks
and a whole shed flew by. The world roared.
A branch broke into the kitchen,
Strewed twigs into the banging cupboard,
filled broken crocks with leaves. I heard
a tricycle roll up and down the attic as
the firmament streamed through smashed tiles.

I loved you but I loved the wind more,
wanted to be as horizontal as the tree tops,
to cling to the planet by my last fingernail,
singing into the rush, into the dark.
I didn't know then I would watch
my beloveds peel off the earth
each side of me, flying among tiles, bins,
caravans, car doors and chimney pots,
watch them turn themselves into flotsam
and disappear as wholly as the pier
the next morning, a Friday, mid
October. Gone, split, vamoosed
like the fifteen million trees.

Group 5

- 1) Read the poem carefully.
- 2) Working in a group, decide what is happening in the poem (meaning) and what the poet is trying to say to the reader (message).
- 3) Now, go through the poem and highlight all the techniques you can see.
- 4) Now, explain how these techniques help to get the **meaning and message** across to the reader.
- 5) Write a PETAZL paragraph based on one of your ideas.

Wendy Cope: Spared

*'That Love is all there is,
Is all we know of Love...'*

—
Emily Dickinson

It wasn't you, it wasn't me,
Up there, two thousand feet above
A New York street. We're safe and free,
A little while, to live and love,

Imagining what might have been -
The phone call from the blazing tower,
A last farewell on the machine,
While someone sleeps another hour,

Or worse, perhaps, to say goodbye
And listen to each other's pain,
Send helpless love across the sky,
Knowing we'll never meet again,

Or jump together, hand in hand,
To certain death. Spared all of this
For now, how well I understand
That love is all, is all there is.

Act 1, Scene 2 – The Aftermath

A camp near Forres.

DUNCAN

What bloody man is that? He can report,
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt
The newest state.

MALCOLM

This is the sergeant
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought
'Gainst my captivity. Hail, brave friend!
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil
As thou didst leave it.

Sergeant

Doubtful it stood;
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald--
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon him--from the western isles
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:
For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like valour's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave;
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

DUNCAN

O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

Activities:

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. Highlight the simile the sergeant uses to describe the two armies. Why does the sergeant make this comparison? What does it tell you about the armies?
3. How is the villain, Macdonwald presented here? Highlight Shakespeare's language choices and explain what they imply.
4. How is Macbeth presented by Duncan and the Sergeant? Highlight the adjectives used and explain what they suggest.
5. 'Brandish'd steel, which smoked with bloody execution' – What can we infer about the world Macbeth's world. What does the past participle 'smoked' imply?
6. The Sergeant personifies Macdonwald's luck in the battle. Highlight this example of personification. What does the Sergeant compare luck to and why?

INCREASING CHALLENGE

Act 1, Scene 1 – The Witches

A desert place.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches

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.

Activities:

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. What does the adverb 'again' suggest about the witches?
3. What mood is established at the beginning of the play? How is this mood established? Answer as annotations, highlighting specific examples of language that help to create this mood.
4. Who or what are Graymalkin and Paddock? What does this tell you about the world of the play?
5. How would a contemporary audience react to this opening? Why do you think this is? Consider what life was like at the time and how this would dictate what people believed in.
6. Why do you think Shakespeare has the witches talk in rhyming, **paradoxical** couplets? What is the effect and what does it tell you about the witches?

***Paradoxical** – Contradictory

INCREASING CHALLENGE

'Macbeth' – GCSE Mock Exam Question

Read this extract from Act 3, Scene 1.

At this point in the play, Macbeth is remembering the witches' prophecy regarding Banquo and the fact he will be father to kings.

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 feared. 'Tis much he dares,
And to that dauntless temper of his mind
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valor
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, prophetlike,
They hailed him father to a line of kings.
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown
And put a barren scepter in my grip,
Thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered;
Put rancors in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man,
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as troubled.

Write about:

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

Explain how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as troubled.

1

- **5 PETAL Paragraphs.**

- Point (how is Macbeth presented as troubled?)
- Evidence (a quotation that proves your point)
- Technique (what word in the quotation is of interest? What type of word is this?)
- Analysis (how does this quotation prove your point?)
- Link (how is this idea relevant to the time the play was set?)

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL: REVISION BOOKLET



AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response, use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.

AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

Throughout this booklet, you will find a series of activities designed to help you revise Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. Remember to focus on the assessment objectives and what you are actually being marked on. You need to demonstrate you can meet all three in order to succeed in the exam.

ACTIVITY ONE: The plot

Read and summarise

Read the plot of 'A Christmas Carol' and summarise what you have learned into four bullet points at the end of each section.

READ

A mean-spirited, miserly old man named Ebenezer Scrooge sits in his counting-house on a cold Christmas Eve. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, shivers in the anteroom because Scrooge refuses to spend money on heating coals for a fire. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, pays his uncle a visit and invites him to his annual Christmas party. Two portly gentlemen also drop by and ask Scrooge for a contribution to their charity. Scrooge reacts to the holiday visitors with bitterness and venom, spitting out an angry "Bah! Humbug!" in response to his nephew's "Merry Christmas!"

Later that evening, after returning to his dark, cold apartment, Scrooge receives a chilling visit from the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marley. Marley, looking haggard and pale, tells his unfortunate story. As punishment for his greedy and self-serving life, his spirit has been condemned to wander the Earth weighted down with heavy chains. Marley hopes to save Scrooge from sharing the same fate. Marley informs Scrooge that three spirits will visit him during each of the next three nights. After the ghost disappears, Scrooge collapses into a deep sleep.

SUMMARISE

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READ

He wakes moments before the arrival of the Ghost of Christmas Past, a strange childlike phantom with a brightly glowing head. The spirit escorts Scrooge on a journey into the past to previous Christmases from his earlier years. Invisible to those he watches, Scrooge revisits his childhood school days, his apprenticeship with a jolly merchant named Fezziwig, and his engagement to Belle, a woman who leaves Scrooge because his lust for money

overshadows his ability to love another. Scrooge, deeply moved, sheds tears of regret before the phantom returns him to his bed.

The Ghost of Christmas Present, a majestic giant dressed in a green fur robe, takes Scrooge through London to unveil Christmas as it will happen that year. Scrooge watches the large, bustling Cratchit family prepare a miniature feast in its meagre home. He discovers Bob Cratchit's crippled son, Tiny Tim, a courageous boy whose kindness and humility warms Scrooge's heart. The ghost then zips Scrooge to his nephew's to witness the Christmas party. Scrooge finds the jovial gathering delightful and pleads with the spirit to stay until the very end of the festivities. As the day passes, the spirit ages, becoming noticeably older. Toward the end of the day, he shows Scrooge two starved children, Ignorance and Want, living under his coat. He vanishes instantly as Scrooge notices a dark, hooded figure coming toward him.

SUMMARISE

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READ

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come leads Scrooge through a sequence of mysterious scenes relating to an unnamed man's recent death. Scrooge sees businessmen discussing the dead man's riches, some vagabonds trading his personal effects for cash, and a poor couple expressing relief at the death of their unforgiving creditor. Scrooge, anxious to learn the lesson of his latest visitor, begs to know the name of the dead man. After pleading with the ghost, Scrooge finds himself in a churchyard, the spirit pointing to a grave. Scrooge looks at the headstone and is shocked to read his own name. He desperately implores the spirit to alter his fate, promising to change his insensitive, greedy ways and to honour Christmas with all his heart. Whoosh! He suddenly finds himself safely tucked in his bed.

Overwhelmed with joy by the chance to redeem himself and grateful that he has been returned to Christmas Day, Scrooge rushes out onto the street hoping to share his newfound Christmas spirit. He sends a giant Christmas turkey to the Cratchit house and attends Fred's party, to the surprise of the other guests. As the years go by, he holds true to his promise and honours Christmas with all his heart: he treats Tiny Tim as if he were his own child, provides lavish gifts for the poor, and treats his fellow human beings with kindness, generosity, and warmth.

SUMMARISE

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ACTIVITY TWO: Low Stakes Quiz

Answer the multiple choice questions.

Who is Scrooge's clerk?

- a) Bob Cratchit
- b) Fred
- c) Jacob Marley
- d) Fezziwig

Who is Jacob Marley?

- e) Scrooge's nephew
- f) A charity worker
- g) Scrooge's clerk
- h) Scrooge's old business partner

How many ghosts does Marley say will visit Scrooge?

- a) Two
- b) Three
- c) Four
- d) Five

What is the first thing the Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge?

- a) His old school days
- b) His apprenticeship with Fezziwig
- c) His relationship with his fiancée, Belle.
- d) Belle's new family

What is Bob Cratchit's son called?

- a) Puny Pete
- b) Tiny Tim
- c) Small Sam
- d) Miniature Michael

What does the Ghost of Christmas Present reveal to Scrooge at the end of their time together?

- a) Scrooge's death
- b) The death of Tiny Tim
- c) Two children representing Ignorance and Want
- d) Scrooge's father

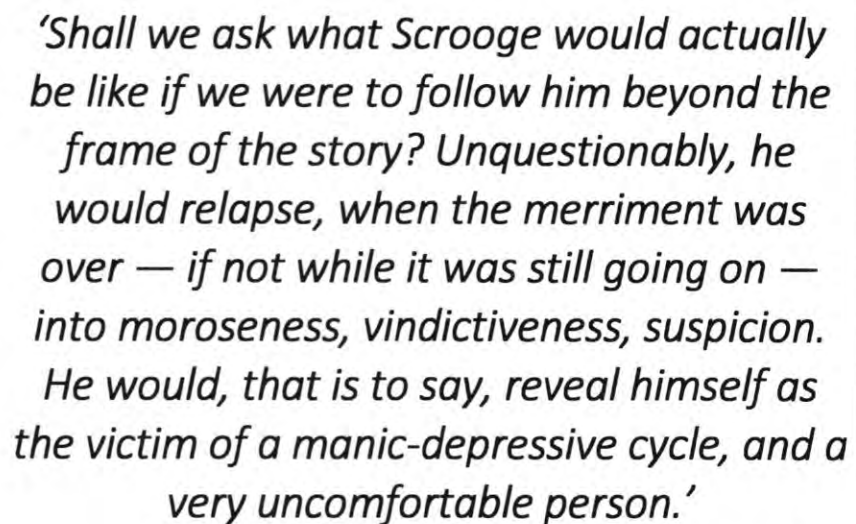
Scrooge is shown many things by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come including...

- a) vagabonds trying to sell his things.
- b) a poor couple expressing relief at his death.
- c) businessmen discussing his wealth and riches.
- d) his own grave.

What does Scrooge send round to Bob Cratchit's house?

- a) A goose
- b) A turkey
- c) Presents
- d) A bill

Read the information and complete the tasks



- Edmund Wilson (The Two Scrooges)

TASK: What do you think literary critic, Edmund Wilson, is saying here? What does he believe would really happen to Scrooge beyond the end of 'A Christmas Carol' and why? What exactly about Scrooge's transformation do you think Wilson is criticising?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ACTIVITY FOUR: Charles Dickens

Read the information and complete the tasks

Dickens and Poverty

Dickens experienced prison and poverty in his own childhood. In 1824, London, John Dickens was locked in Marshalsea debtor's prison for failing to pay his debts. His son, Charles, aged 11, was sent away to a blacking factory, covering and labelling pots of shoe polish in appalling conditions as well as loneliness and despair. He lived separated from his family, as his younger sister and mother were put in prison with his father. Later, he wrote in a letter with horror: *'No words can describe the secret agony of my soul as I sank into this companionship.... The sense I had of being utterly neglected and hopeless, fired with grief and humiliation, my lonely vulnerability, my hungry misery, and the knowledge they had willingly put me in this situation. I could not bear to think of myself beyond reach of any honourable success.'* After three years he was returned to school, but the experience was never forgotten. Dickens lived just nine doors down from the workhouse until 1831, when he was 19 years old.

TASK ONE: SUMMARISE IT

Summarise the information in fifty words or fewer.

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the information into TWO images. Label your images with quotations.

TASK THREE: CONSIDER IT

How do you think Dickens' experiences as a child impacted his life as an adult? Answer in full sentences.

What did Dickens think of the law – and the poor – in England?

When Dickens wrote in 1830s London, English law was based on the idea of justice and a fair trial. However, Dickens found the law did not always practice what it preached. His father had been imprisoned in a debtor's jail and Dickens separated from his family and sent to work in miserable conditions and lonely isolation when he was 11. Injustice, more often, was what Dickens experienced from the law for those in poverty.

Dickens became a lifelong supporter of the poor. For example, in January 1837, a trial was held at London Marylebone workhouse, and Dickens was on the jury. The case was a servant girl accused of killing her newborn baby, with the threat of the death penalty if she was found guilty. Eliza Burgess, weak, ill and frightened, was herself an orphan. Her story was that her baby appeared to be dead, so she hid it under the dresser but confessed to her employer. The jury was ready to find her guilty. That night, Dickens could not sleep: the dead baby, the thought of the terrified, unhappy, ignorant young woman in poverty and in prison. Dickens resolved to take on those who were ready to find her guilty. He argued so firmly and forcefully that he won the argument. The verdict was returned: not guilty. He then went out of his way to help victims of the law, even though he was under huge pressure himself to write and earn a living, to avoid debt and the debtor's prison.

How did Dickens' sister-in law Mary die aged 17 in 1837?

Dickens' beloved sister-in-law, Mary Hogarth, lived with the writer and his wife. Aged just seventeen, she became very ill with fever. Without warning, she died suddenly from it. Her death was a shock and Dickens carried the memory of Mary with him for the rest of his life. Dickens has his characters suffer from illness, but in his books, he can ensure they survive. Mary's death never allowed Dickens to forget how fragile life is.

TASK ONE: SUMMARISE IT

Summarise the information in fifty words or fewer.

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the information into TWO images. Label your images with quotations.

How and why did Dickens write his books?

Dickens' books were originally published in monthly parts, and Dickens created each episode just in time to be published, so he could not go back and change anything, but had to plot it all out in his mind. He wrote professionally and raised himself and his family out of poverty through the popularity of his writing. Dickens wrote his books to challenge injustice and expose the impact of poverty in 19th century London.

ACTIVITY FIVE: Summarise your learning

Without looking at the information, see if you can summarise what you have learned about Charles Dickens in a mind map.



ACTIVITY SIX: Tier 2 Vocabulary Check

Revise the key vocabulary by completing the tasks.

destitute (adjective) extremely poor and lacking the means to provide for oneself.

TASK ONE: READ IT

Read about the etymology of 'destitute'.

Late 14c., "abandoned, forsaken," from Latin **destitutus** "abandoned," past participle of **destituere** "forsake," from **de-** "away" + **statuere** "put, place," Originally literal; sense of "lacking resources, impoverished" is 1530s.

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the adjective 'destitute' into an image to help you remember it.

TASK THREE: DEBATE IT

'The issue of destitution in society will never be solved'. To what extent do you agree?

TASK FOUR: USE IT

Can you use the following words in a sentence?
destitute, destitution

1.

2.

TASK FIVE: LINK IT

Make a list of quotations from 'A Christmas Carol' that link to the adjective 'destitute'.

ACTIVITY SEVEN: Thomas Malthus and Malthusian Controversy

Read the information and complete the tasks.



In his book **An Essay on the Principle of Population**, The Reverend **Thomas Robert Malthus** (13 February 1766 – 23 December 1834) observed that an increase in a nation's food production improved the well-being of the nation's people, but the improvement was temporary because it led to population growth, which in turn restored the original per capita production level.

In other words, when mankind is doing well and producing lots of food and goods it does not use them to improve their own quality of life. Instead, they use that abundance of goods to have more children and increase the population. This meant there was no longer an abundance, but there was often a shortage instead.

In the past, populations grew until the lower classes suffered hardship and want. At this point, they became vulnerable to famine and disease – and often died.

Malthus thought we would never have a truly perfect (or utopian) society, because every time we came close to providing a great standard of life for everyone, the population grew and the process had to start again.

This idea became known as the Malthusian controversy and it was influential across economic, political, social and scientific thought. For our purposes, it's important to see the big influence it had on Charles Dickens.

TASK ONE: SUMMARISE IT

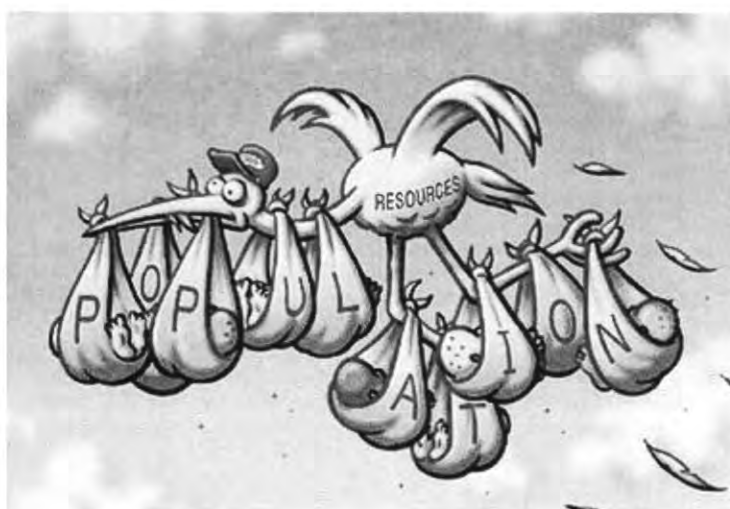
Summarise Thomas Malthus' argument into fifty words or fewer.

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform Thomas Malthus' argument into two pictures. Label your images with quotations.

TASK THREE: Explain how you think Thomas Malthus and Malthusian controversy links to the ideas expressed in 'A Christmas Carol'. Who, would you say, is the voice of Malthus in the novel? Discuss in full sentences.

TASK FOUR: How does the cartoon below illustrate Malthus' ideas about population?

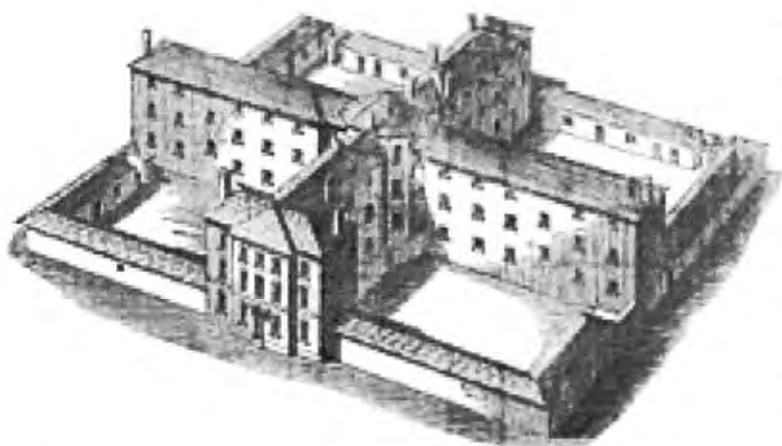


ACTIVITY EIGHT: 'The Uncommercial Traveller' by Charles Dickens

Complete the tasks below.

TASK ONE: Note down what you think of when you hear the word 'workhouse'. These notes may take whatever form you like.

TASK TWO: Read Dickens' description of a workhouse from his collection of semi-autobiographical essays called 'The Uncommercial Traveller'.



This was the only preparation for our entering 'the Foul wards'. They were in an old building squeezed away in a corner of a paved yard, detached from the more modern and spacious main body of the workhouse. They were in a building most monstrously behind the time and only accessible by steep and narrow staircases, infamously ill-adapted for the passage up-stairs of the sick or down-stairs of the dead.

In these miserable rooms, here on bedsteads, there on the floor, were women in every stage of distress and disease. One figure a little coiled up and turned away, as though it had turned its back on this world for ever; the uninterested face at once lead-coloured and yellow, looking passively upward from the pillow; the haggard mouth a little dropped, the hand outside the coverlet, so dull and indifferent, so light, and yet so heavy; these were on every pallet; but when I stopped beside a bed, and said ever so slight a word to the figure lying there, the ghost of the old character came into the face, and made the Foul ward as various as the fair world. No one appeared to care to live, but no one complained; all who could speak, said that as much was done for them as could be done there, that the attendance was kind and patient, that their suffering was very heavy, but they had nothing to ask for. The wretched rooms were as clean and sweet as it is possible for such rooms to be; they would become a pest-house in a single week, if they were ill-kept.

Now, I reasoned with myself, as I made my journey home again, concerning those Foul wards. They ought not to exist; no person of common decency and humanity can see them and doubt it. But what is this Union to do? The necessary alteration would cost several thousands of pounds; it has already to support three workhouses; its inhabitants work hard for their bare lives.

[illegible][illegible]

- [illegible]

ACTIVITY NINE: Tier 2 Vocabulary Check

Revise the key vocabulary by completing the tasks.

parsimonious (adjective) unwilling to spend money or use resources.

TASK ONE: READ IT

Read about the etymology of 'parsimonious'.

1590s, from Latin ***parsimonia***
"frugality, thrift"

Not originally with the
suggestion of stinginess.

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the adjective 'parsimonious' into an image
to help you remember it.

TASK THREE: DEBATE IT

'Are the advantages and disadvantages of being parsimonious equal?'

TASK FOUR: USE IT

Can you use the following words in a sentence?
Parsimonious, parsimoniously, parsimoniousness

1.

2.

3.

TASK FIVE: LINK IT

Make a list of quotations from 'A Christmas Carol' that
link to the adjective 'parsimonious'.

ACTIVITY TEN: Stave One quotations

Revise the key quotations in Stave One by completing the activities.

TASK ONE: Analyse the following quotations by answering the questions.

What language device has been used by Dickens here?

Why compare Scrooge to an oyster? What similarities do they share?

'solitary as an oyster'

What are the connotations of the adjective 'solitary'? Explore multiple interpretations.

What is Dickens' authorial intent? Why make Scrooge such a miserly character?

What word types are these? What impression do they give you of the weather?

What is the significance of the personification of 'biting'?

'cold, bleak, biting weather'

How is this an example of pathetic fallacy?

What is Dickens' authorial intent? Why make the weather so horrendous at the beginning? How does this set the tone for what is to come?

What are the connotations of 'glow'? How can this be seen in a positive sense?

Explain how this quotations presents Fred as the antithesis of Scrooge.

'He was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled.'

What is Dickens' authorial intent? Why is it necessary for Fred to enter into the story when he does?

What impression does the verb 'sparkled' give us of Fred's outlook on life?

What is the significance of Marley's chain?

What does the verb 'forged' imply?

"I wear the chain I forged in life."

How/why does Marley's appearance plunge fear into Scrooge?

Marley's appearance is that of the typical Victorian prisoner here. Why does Dickens give him this appearance?

What role does memory play at this point in the novel?

What is the significance of the adjective 'incessant'?

“No rest, no peace. Incessant torture of remorse.”

What is Dickens' authorial intent? Why present readers with the idea that 'remorse' can 'torture' them?

What are the connotations of 'torture'?

What is the significance of this quotation?
What is Marley saying?

What are the connotations of 'business'?

“Mankind was my business.”

Why does Dickens include this line?

Why say 'WAS my business'? Why past tense?

ACTIVITY ELEVEN: Tier 2 Vocabulary Check

Revise the key vocabulary by completing the tasks.

implore (verb) beg someone earnestly or desperately to do something

TASK ONE: READ IT

Read about the etymology of 'implore'.

c. 1500, from Middle French **implorer** and directly from Latin **implorare** "call on for help, beseech, beg earnestly," with a literal sense probably of "plead tearfully, invoke with weeping," from assimilated form of **in-** "on, upon" + **plorare** "to weep, cry out"

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the verb 'implore' into an image to help you remember it.

TASK THREE: DEBATE IT

Is the act of imploring a sign of defeat?

TASK FOUR: USE IT

Can you use the following words in a sentence?
implore, imploring, imploringly

1.

2.

3.

TASK FIVE: LINK IT

Make a list of quotations from 'A Christmas Carol' that link to the verb 'implore'.

ACTIVITY TWELVE: Scrooge's conversion

Read the information from 'Scrooge's Conversion' by Don R. Cox of the University of Missouri and complete the tasks.

TASK ONE: Read the following information.



Dickens, whose works eternally celebrate Christmas, was not much of a Christian, strangely enough, and his theology is always a little fuzzy at best. If we look at 'A Christmas Carol' closely, for example, we see a story with a rather secular twist. When Scrooge makes his promise to 'honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year,' we do not necessarily feel that he has become infused with a religious spirit and henceforth is constantly going to honour a holy day. The spirit that has seized his heart is not an angelic one but one that more probably resembles the Ghost of Christmas Present, a jolly bacchanalian ghost surrounded by 'turkeys, geese, game,

poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking-pigs, long wreaths of sausages, mince-pies, plum-puddings, barrels of oysters, red-hot chestnuts, cherry-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense twelfth-cakes, and seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with their delicious steam.' It is not a series of holy spirits that converts Scrooge, but a series of spirits that shows him a materialistic world.

And why should Scrooge be converted by holy spirits anyway? Why should he experience a religious awakening? His 'sin' or 'wickedness' has not necessarily been a denial of religion. Even his name as it has passed into the language connotes Scrooge's 'sin'. He is a miser; he is tight with his money and will not give to the poor. He refuses the luxuries of life, keeps his rooms poorly heated, wrings his money's worth out of Bob Cratchit, and will not participate in the festival of humanity that surrounds him. He is a kind of a grump perhaps, but he is not necessarily a wicked man. The 'conversion' that Scrooge experiences is not a holy revelation but an economic revelation. Scrooge saves his soul in the same way that Pickwick so often finds atonement – he spends money.

TASK TWO: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

- 1. If something is 'secular' it means it is not connected with religious or spiritual matters. Do you agree with Don. R. Cox that Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' is secular? If so, why do you think it is? Why has Dickens made the conscious decision to avoid discussing the links between Christmas and Christianity? Is there any evidence in the novel to suggest Cox's argument is incorrect?**

- 2. 'It is not a series of holy spirits that converts Scrooge, but a series of spirits that shows him a materialistic world' – Do you think materialism is really the reason Scrooge changes?**

- 3. In your opinion, do you think Scrooge has denied religion in his life? What can you infer from the information we are given about him in the text?**

ACTIVITY THIRTEEN: Tier 2 Vocabulary Check

Revise the key vocabulary by completing the tasks.

cordial (adjective) warm and friendly

TASK ONE: READ IT

Read about the etymology of 'cordial'.

c. 1400, "of or pertaining to the heart" (a sense now obsolete or rare, replaced by cardiac), from Medieval Latin **cordialis** "of or for the heart," from Latin **cor** "heart"

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the adjective 'cordial' into an image to help you remember it.

TASK THREE: DEBATE IT

Can being cordial ever have negative consequences?

TASK FOUR: USE IT

Can you use the following words in a sentence?
cordial, cordially, cordiality

1.

2.

3.

TASK FIVE: LINK IT

Make a list of quotations from 'A Christmas Carol' that link to the adjective 'cordial'.

ACTIVITY FOURTEEN: Stave Two quotations

Revise the key quotations in Stave Two by completing the activities.

TASK ONE: Analyse the following quotations by answering the questions.

What are the connotations of the adjective 'strange'?

Why is the language here full of contradiction and antithesis?

'It was a strange figure – like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man.'

What are the connotations of the noun 'child'?

What is Dickens' authorial intent? Why make this spirit such an odd character?

How does this quotation link to themes of light and dark?

Why does the spirit describe Scrooge's hands as 'worldly'?

“Would you so soon put out, with worldly hands, the light I give?”

What is Dickens' authorial intent with this question?

How does the light Scrooge is surrounded by contrast with the events of Stave One?

What are the connotations of the adjective 'lonely'?

The adjective 'feeble' implies Scrooge is not surrounded by much warmth or light.
What could this symbolise?

'A lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire.'

Why is it important that Scrooge sees this image?

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

Why does the spirit take Scrooge to see Fezziwig?

What are the connotations of each of the adjectives?

'He called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice.'

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

How do these adjectives contrast to the way Scrooge's voice was described in Stave One?

What are the connotations of the noun
'idol'?

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

"Another idol has displaced me."

What does the word 'another' suggest
about the relationship between Belle and
Scrooge?

Why is it important that Scrooge sees this
image?

The fact that he cannot hide the light
anymore suggests what about Scrooge?

What are the connotations of the verb
'streamed'?

**'He could not hide the light: which streamed from under it,
in an unbroken flood upon the ground.'**

What does the 'unbroken flood' imply
about the light?

How does this quotation link to the
themes of light and dark?

ACTIVITY FIFTEEN: Low Stakes Quiz

Answer the multiple choice questions.

A Reminder of Stave One!

Who is Jacob Marley?

- a) Scrooge's office clerk
- b) Scrooge's current business partner
- c) Scrooge's former business partner
- d) Scrooge's nephew

Who is Bob Cratchit?

- a) Scrooge's office clerk
- b) Scrooge's current business partner
- c) Scrooge's former business partner
- d) Scrooge's nephew

Scrooge is a solitary as an...

- a) A shrew
- b) An oyster
- c) A crab
- d) A hermit

Who are the charitable gentlemen collecting for?

- a) Ignorance and Want
- b) Orphans and Children
- c) Poor and Destitute
- d) Workhouses and Prisons

What does Scrooge want to decrease?

- a) The surplus population
- b) Joy in Christmas
- c) The amount given to charity
- d) Bob Cratchit's wages

What is Marley weighed down by?

- a) Heavy sandbags
- b) Chains made of padlocks and cashboxes
- c) His guilty conscience
- d) Iron weights

What does Marley say was his 'business'?

- a) Making profit
- b) Charitable acts
- c) Mankind
- d) Helping Scrooge

A Reminder of Stave Two!

Who or what is Fezziwig?

- a) The local wig shop
- b) The name of Scrooge's favourite drink
- c) Scrooge's crazy uncle
- d) Scrooge's boss when he was younger

What bad news does Belle give Scrooge?

- a) His mother has died
- b) She is calling off their engagement
- c) She is moving away
- d) He has lost his job

What does Scrooge come to understand after viewing the Fezziwig scene?

- a) How lonely he was as a young man
- b) That everyone knew how to have fun except him
- c) The benefits of kindness
- d) The time it takes to develop strong relationships

What is the first place the ghost takes Scrooge to visit?

- a) His grandmother's kitchen
- b) His first office
- c) His boyhood schoolhouse
- d) His college dorm room
- e) His first place of work

How is Scrooge able to fly out the window with the ghost?

- a) By holding his ankle
- b) By climbing on his back
- c) By grasping his robe
- d) By touching his hand

How does Belle seem to Scrooge when the ghost takes him to observe her several years later?

- a) Poor
- b) Angry
- c) Happy
- d) Sad

ACTIVITY SIXTEEN: Tier 2 Vocabulary Check

Revise the key vocabulary by completing the tasks.

jocund (adjective) cheerful and light-hearted

TASK ONE: READ IT

Read about the etymology of 'jocund'.

Late 14c., "pleasing, gracious; joyful," from Old French **jocond** or directly from Late Latin **iocundus** (source of Spanish **jocunde**, Italian **giocondo**), variant (influenced by **iocus** "joke") of Latin **iucundus** "pleasant, agreeable."

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the adjective 'jocund' into an image to help you remember it.

TASK THREE: DEBATE IT

Can people be too jocund? Is this a bad thing?

TASK FOUR: USE IT

Can you use the following words in a sentence?
jocund

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

TASK FIVE: LINK IT

Make a list of quotations from 'A Christmas Carol' that link to the adjective 'jocund'.

ACTIVITY SEVENTEEN: Stave Three quotations

Revise the key quotations in Stave Three by completing the activities.

TASK ONE: Analyse the following quotations by answering the questions.

What are the connotations of the adjective 'jolly'?

How does the torch link to the theme of light?

'There sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see; who bore a glowing torch... and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge.'

Why a 'giant'? What is the significance of this?

Why does Dickens emphasise how high the torch is held?

What does the adjective 'sufficient' tell you about the Cratchits?

Discuss the theme of family. Why does Dickens include it?

'It was a sufficient dinner for the whole family.'

What is the purpose of the Cratchits? Why are they there?

Why does Scrooge need to see this?

How does Dickens use the Cratchits to emphasise the importance of Christmas?

How are the Cratchits the antithesis of Scrooge?

'There was nothing of high mark in this. They were not a handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being water-proof; their clothes were scanty.'

Why is it important for Scrooge to see this?

Why does Dickens go to such great lengths to emphasise the poverty the Cratchits live in?

Why does Dickens make the Ignorance and Want children?

What is the effect of these adjectives?

'They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish: but prostrate, too, in their humility.'

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

Why is the significance of the fact they are 'prostrate in their humility'?

ACTIVITY EIGHTEEN: Tier 2 Vocabulary Check

Revise the key vocabulary by completing the tasks.

malevolent (adjective) having or showing a wish to do evil to others

TASK ONE: READ IT

Read about the etymology of 'malevolent'.

c. 1500, from Middle French **malivolent** and directly from Latin **malevolentem**
"ill-disposed, spiteful, envious,"
from **male** "badly" + **volentem**,
present participle of **velle** "to wish"

TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT

Transform the adjective 'malevolent' into an image to help you remember it.

TASK THREE: DEBATE IT

Does being malevolent have its advantages?

TASK FOUR: USE IT

Can you use the following words in a sentence?
malevolent, malevolence, malevolently

1.

2.

3.

TASK FIVE: LINK IT

Make a list of quotations from 'A Christmas Carol' that link to the adjective 'malevolent'.

ACTIVITY NINETEEN: Stave Four quotations

Revise the key quotations in Stave Four by completing the activities.

TASK ONE: Analyse the following quotations by answering the questions.

What are the connotations of these adverbs?

Why is this ghost silent? Why, unlike the others, does the ghost not tell Scrooge what he has done wrong?

'The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached.'

Why is this ghost referred to as a 'phantom' and not a 'spirit'?

How does this description instil a sense of fear in Scrooge and the reader?

How does this ghost differ from the others? Why does this ghost have to create a sense of fear?

What is Dickens saying about the ghost? Why is it 'immovable'?

'The Spirit was immovable as ever.'

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

Why add 'as ever' on the end? What is the significance of this?

'I will live in the Past, Present and Future'.
What does this mean?

Scrooge says he will 'try' to keep it all the
year. Why 'try'? Why not 'will'?

**"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all
the year. I will live in the Past, Present, and the Future. The
Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out
the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge
away the writing on this stone."**

What is the significance of the word
'strive'?

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

**TASK TWO: 'Scrooge does not change because he has truly seen the errors
of his ways. He changes because he is still selfish and scared of what will
happen if he does not.' To what extent do you agree?**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

ACTIVITY TWENTY: Low Stakes Quiz

Answer the multiple choice questions.

Stave One

Scrooge is a solitary as an...

- e) A shrew
- f) An oyster
- g) A crab
- h) A hermit

What does Scrooge want to decrease?

- e) The surplus population
- f) Joy in Christmas
- g) The amount given to charity
- h) Bob Cratchit's wages

What does Marley say was his 'business'?

- e) Making profit
- f) Charitable acts
- g) Mankind

Helping Scrooge

Stave Two

How does the Ghost of Christmas Past describe the young Scrooge?

- a) A solitary child, neglected by his friends
- b) An evil child, neglected by his friends
- c) A solitary child with no friends
- d) A popular child with lots of friends

What bad news does Belle give Scrooge?

- e) His mother has died
- f) She is calling off their engagement
- g) She is moving away
- h) He has lost his job

What is the first place the ghost takes Scrooge to visit?

- f) His grandmother's kitchen
- g) His first office
- h) His boyhood schoolhouse
- i) His college dorm room
- j) His first place of work

Stave Three

How is the Ghost of Christmas Present represented?

- a) A jolly giant
- b) A silent phantom
- c) A small glowing man
- d) An invisible spirit

Who are the children under the Ghost of Christmas Present's coat?

- a) Poor and Destitute
- b) Hope and Charity
- c) Ignorance and Want
- d) Goodness and Light

Which line does the Ghost of Christmas Present repeat to Scrooge?

- a) "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?"
- b) "Christmas? Bah humbug!"
- c) "Decrease the surplus population."
- d) "You may be a bit of undigested beef."

Context

Who might the Ghost of Christmas Present represent?

- a) Father Christmas
- b) Scrooge's father
- c) God
- d) Jacob Marley

Which words best describe 19th century Victorian London?

- a) Happy, wealthy and wise
- b) Dangerous, crowded, filthy
- c) Violent, murderous, insane
- d) Clean, healthy and safe

Malthus believed...

- a) We can't improve our lives if the population increases
- b) We can't improve our lives until the population increases
- c) We can't improve our lives unless we earn more money
- d) We can't improve our lives unless we do more for charity

ACTIVITY TWENTY ONE: Stave Five quotations

Revise the key quotations in Stave Five by completing the activities.

TASK ONE: Analyse the following quotations by answering the questions.

How do these similes contrast the similes used in Stave One?

What is Dickens' authorial intent? Why does he show us this?

"I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy."

What are the connotations of an 'angel'?

Why is it significant that Scrooge mentions a 'merry school-boy'?

Now there is no fog unlike the descriptions in Stave One. What do you think the fog and mist could have symbolised?

Why do you think Dickens has given the novella a cyclical structure?

'No fog, not mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold.'

Why does Dickens list the qualities of the cold?

What are the connotations of these adjectives?

What are the connotations of 'heart'?

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

'His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him.'

What is the significance of 'that was quite enough for him'?

Why do you think Tiny Tim is the one to say this?

Why make this the last line of the novella?

'And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!'

What is Dickens' authorial intent here?

Why is the significance of 'every one'?

ACTIVITY TWENTY TWO: Tier 2 Vocabulary Check

Revise the key vocabulary by completing the tasks.

beneficent (adjective) generous, selfless

TASK ONE: READ IT		TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT	
Read about the etymology of 'beneficent'.		Transform the adjective 'beneficent' into an image to help you remember it.	
1610s, "doing good, charitable through good will," probably from beneficence on model of magnificent, etc. The Latin adjective is beneficus .			
TASK THREE: DEBATE IT			
Does beneficence exist in modern society?			
TASK FOUR: USE IT		TASK FIVE: LINK IT	
Can you use the following words in a sentence? beneficent, beneficence		Make a list of quotations from 'A Christmas Carol' that link to the adjective 'beneficent'.	
1.			
2.			
3.			

ACTIVITY TWENTY THREE: 'A Christmas Carol' is a defence of charity – and capitalism

Read the information by Brandon Ambrosino and complete the activities.

TASK ONE: Read the following information.

Introduction: *Marley was dead: to begin with.*

That's one of the most famous opening lines of any work of English literature. It is, of course, the beginning of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, his 19th-century tale about the miserly Scrooge, who, after a visit from three holiday sprites, discovers the joy of the holidays.

Dickens published the novella in December 1843, and it was an instant hit, first in his home country and then across the pond in America. In fact, since it was published some 170 years ago, it hasn't ever been out of print. But in spite of the popularity of the work, Dickens was disappointed by his earnings from the book.

As Jon Michael Varese notes in the *Guardian*, the book sold its first printing of 6,000 copies by Christmas Eve 1843. By the close of the following year, the book had sold more than 15,000 copies. Dickens made £726, a sum of money that he found disappointing.

In a letter to John Forster, his literary advisor, Dickens wrote that he'd hoped to bring in at least £1,000. "What a wonderful thing it is," he wrote, "that such a great success should occasion me such intolerable anxiety and disappointment!" Varese, too, thinks the publication wasn't a financial success.

Still, it's worth noting that £726 was a lot of money in 1843. Correcting for inflation over 170 years isn't an exact science, but the Bank of England says £726 in 1843 is around £80,000 (\$125,000) in today's money. For comparison, the protagonist of *A Christmas Carol*, Bob Cratchit, made 15 shillings, or £0.75, per week. So Dickens made almost as much from two years of *Christmas Carol* sales as Cratchit would have made in 20 years of working for Mr. Scrooge.

Forster believed they could have made even more from the book if they'd charged more for it. The book sold for 5 shillings (£0.25), which was, in fact, high for that time period. But considering Dickens's lavish requirements for his publisher — gold lettering on the front and back, four full-page color etchings, gilded page edges, a bright red and green title page — 5 shillings was less than it could have sold for.



As Varese notes, Dickens set the price at an affordable rate so that it could be easily accessible to most people. And not just because he wanted to provide all of London with Christmas cheer, but because he wanted to give them a lesson in economics.

Why Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*

In the fall of 1843, Dickens visited Samuel Starey's Field Lane Ragged School, a school that "educated slum children," according to the *New York Times*. Dickens easily empathized with such children living in poverty, coming, as he did, from a poor childhood himself — a fact that set him apart from many other English authors, like Jane Austen and the Brontë sisters, who enjoyed the social and class privilege of their births. To this day, Dickens is remembered for his empathy with those living in poverty. As his tombstone reads, "He was a sympathiser with the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed..."

When his father was sent to debtors' prison, 12-year-old Dickens had to take a job at a blacking factory, where for up to 12 hours a day he pasted labels onto pots of boot polish. He was paid 5 or 6 shillings (£0.25 to £0.3) a week for his labor, and that price went directly to help his family make ends meet.

On October 5, Dickens was asked to deliver a lecture at the first annual meeting of the Manchester Athenaeum, an institution that provided education and recreation to the laboring classes. Dickens used the opportunity to speak against systemic poverty and injustice: "Thousands of immortal creatures are condemned ... to tread, not what our great poet [Shakespeare] calls the 'primrose path to the everlasting bonfire,' but over jagged flints and stones laid down by brutal ignorance."

After delivering the address, Dickens planned to write a pamphlet titled, "An Appeal to the People of England on Behalf of the Poor Man's Child," treating many of the themes he'd spoken about in Manchester. However, the pamphlet was never written, as the author chose instead to give his economic ideas flesh and blood — and, importantly, a wobbly leg — in the form of a story.

Scrooge, everyman

The word "Scrooge" has become synonymous with greed, the word we use for someone miserly, penny-pinching, and merciless. As Dickens writes of his main character, Scrooge was "a tight-fisted hand ... a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner."

But though he doesn't give away any of his money, and though he feels no sympathy for those less fortunate than he, Scrooge, as Dickens makes clear, is no criminal. He works hard for his money, day in and day out. And though he seems heartless, he's clearly not villainous, like Dickens's Sikes, the dog-beating criminal from *Oliver Twist* who ends up murdering his girlfriend.

He's also, as English professor Lee Erikson writes, quite similar to others of his day, who "feared not just the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come but the financial future, which seemed likely in the deflationary moment of December 1843 to be very bleak." That is, Scrooge, like many other mid-19th-century businessmen, was concerned about the future of the economy, and was therefore "tight-fisted," in case things took a turn for the worse.

As Erickson notes, by the time Dickens published *A Christmas Carol*:



BOB CRATCHIT AND TINY TIM.

the prices of goods in England had been falling for the past four years and had fallen during that time a total of 22.72 percent. During this period, the rate of deflation had thus been 5.68 percent a year; and, in particular, retrospective price indexes show that prices had fallen and the purchasing power of a pound had risen by five-and-a-half percent from the end of 1842 to the end of 1843. As a consequence, those with income in excess of their needs were spending no more at present than they had to spend ...

In the opening scene when we meet Scrooge, two men show up to his office to ask for charity. Scrooge, of course, offers no money, since, he argues, there are prisons and union workhouses, not to mention poverty laws, to provide for the lower classes. Scrooge didn't protest these government programs — he just thought they were sufficient for those in need.

But as Dickens powerfully argues, those programs are not sufficient. Charity is still necessary.

The economics of *A Christmas Carol*

Some have read *A Christmas Carol* as espousing socialism, but the book doesn't decry capitalism. To be sure, Dickens condemns greed, but that is just one negative effect of a free market, not its defining feature.

In Dickens, the remedy to greed is not socialism — it's charity.

After being convinced by three spirits to mend his ways, Scrooge does in fact improve himself, and becomes something of a philanthropist. He provides dinner for the Cratchits and medical care for Tiny Tim, none of which would have been possible for Scrooge if he hadn't been a successful, shrewd businessman. In other words, capitalism was the very condition that made Scrooge's philanthropy possible. Scrooge's wealth, Dickens argues, is actually a very good thing, when generously distributed.

And Dickens practiced what he preached. He earned a comfortable living as a writer, and he used his wealth and influence to help those less fortunate. One of Dickens's main projects was helping to establish Urania Cottage, a 19th-century safe house where women who led lives of crime and prostitution were given shelter, an education, and a chance to start over.

Though Dickens's classic story is set at Christmastime, the principles at its heart are meant to be read — and practiced! — year round. This is all the more apparent once you understand the author's noble reasons for publishing the work. It was Dickens's hope that all of his readers would come to the same conclusion as his repentant Scrooge:

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!"

TASK TWO: Summarise each section in fifty words or fewer.

Introduction

Why Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol'

--	--

Scrooge, everyman

The economics of 'A Christmas Carol'

--	--

NOTES

Make any additional notes here.



MACBETH! MACBETH! MACBETH!
 BEWARE MACDUFF;
 BEWARE THE THANE OF FIFE.
 BE BLOODY, *laugh to*
 BOLD SCORN
 DISMISS ME. ENOUGH. *The power*
 AND RESOLUTE; *of man,*
 for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.
 BE LION-METTLED
 PROUD; AND TAKE NO CARE
 WHO CHAFES, WHO FRETS, OR WHERE CONSPIRERS ARE:
 MACBETH
 SHALL never vanquish'd be until GREAT
 BIRNHAM WOOD
 to high DUNSINANE HILL
 SHALL COME AGAINST HIM

A03: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

Throughout this booklet, you will find a series of activities designed to help you learn about the social and historical context of 'Macbeth'. Remember, you must comment on the context of the play as part of ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 3 in your literature exam. There is lots to comment on, so make sure you refer back to this booklet when revising.

ACTIVITY ONE: The plot

Read and summarise

Read the plot of 'Macbeth' and summarise what you have learned into four bullet points at the end of each section.

READ

The play begins with the brief appearance of a trio of witches and then moves to a military camp, where the Scottish King Duncan hears the news that his generals, Macbeth and Banquo, have defeated two separate invading armies—one from Ireland, led by the rebel Macdonwald, and one from Norway. Following their pitched battle with these enemy forces, Macbeth and Banquo encounter the witches as they cross a moor. The witches prophesy that Macbeth will be made thane (a rank of Scottish nobility) of Cawdor and eventually King of Scotland. They also prophesy that Macbeth's companion, Banquo, will beget a line of Scottish kings, although Banquo will never be king himself. The witches vanish, and Macbeth and Banquo treat their prophecies sceptically until some of King Duncan's men come to thank the two generals for their victories in battle and to tell Macbeth that he has indeed been named thane of Cawdor. The previous thane betrayed Scotland by fighting for the Norwegians and Duncan has condemned him to death. Macbeth is intrigued by the possibility that the remainder of the witches' prophecy—that he will be crowned king—might be true, but he is uncertain what to expect. He visits with King Duncan, and they plan to dine together at Inverness, Macbeth's castle, that night. Macbeth writes ahead to his wife, Lady Macbeth, telling her all that has happened.

SUMMARISE

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-
-

READ

Lady Macbeth suffers none of her husband's uncertainty. She desires the kingship for him and wants him to murder Duncan in order to obtain it. When Macbeth arrives at Inverness, she overrides all of her husband's objections and persuades him to kill the king that very night. He and Lady Macbeth plan to get Duncan's two chamberlains drunk so they will black out; the next morning they will blame the murder on the chamberlains, who will be defenceless, as they will remember nothing. While Duncan is asleep, Macbeth stabs him, despite his doubts

and a number of supernatural portents, including a vision of a bloody dagger. When Duncan's death is discovered the next morning, Macbeth kills the chamberlains—ostensibly out of rage at their crime—and easily assumes the kingship. Duncan's sons Malcolm and Donalbain flee to England and Ireland, respectively, fearing that whoever killed Duncan desires their demise as well.

SUMMARISE

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-
-

READ

Fearful of the witches' prophecy that Banquo's heirs will seize the throne, Macbeth hires a group of murderers to kill Banquo and his son Fleance. They ambush Banquo on his way to a royal feast, but they fail to kill Fleance, who escapes into the night. Macbeth becomes furious: as long as Fleance is alive, he fears that his power remains insecure. At the feast that night, Banquo's ghost visits Macbeth. When he sees the ghost, Macbeth raves fearfully, startling his guests, who include most of the great Scottish nobility. Lady Macbeth tries to neutralize the damage, but Macbeth's kingship incites increasing resistance from his nobles and subjects. Frightened, Macbeth goes to visit the witches in their cavern. There, they show him a sequence of demons and spirits who present him with further prophecies: he must beware of Macduff, a Scottish nobleman who opposed Macbeth's accession to the throne; he is incapable of being harmed by any man born of woman; and he will be safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Castle. Macbeth is relieved and feels secure, because he knows that all men are born of women and that forests cannot move. When he learns that Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm, Macbeth orders that Macduff's castle be seized and, most cruelly, that Lady Macduff and her children be murdered.

SUMMARISE

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-
-
-

READ

When news of his family's execution reaches Macduff in England, he is stricken with grief and vows revenge. Prince Malcolm, Duncan's son, has succeeded in raising an army in England, and Macduff joins him as he rides to Scotland to challenge Macbeth's forces. The invasion has the support of the Scottish nobles, who are appalled and frightened by Macbeth's tyrannical

and murderous behaviour. Lady Macbeth, meanwhile, becomes plagued with fits of sleepwalking in which she bemoans what she believes to be bloodstains on her hands. Before Macbeth's opponents arrive, Macbeth receives news that she has killed herself, causing him to sink into a deep and pessimistic despair. Nevertheless, he awaits the English and fortifies Dunsinane, to which he seems to have withdrawn in order to defend himself, certain that the witches' prophecies guarantee his invincibility. He is struck numb with fear, however, when he learns that the English army is advancing on Dunsinane shielded with boughs cut from Birnam Wood. Birnam Wood is indeed coming to Dunsinane, fulfilling half of the witches' prophecy.

In the battle, Macbeth hews violently, but the English forces gradually overwhelm his army and castle. On the battlefield, Macbeth encounters the vengeful Macduff, who declares that he was not "of woman born" but was instead "untimely ripped" from his mother's womb (what we now call birth by caesarean section). Though he realizes that he is doomed, Macbeth continues to fight until Macduff kills and beheads him. Malcolm, now the King of Scotland, declares his benevolent intentions for the country and invites all to see him crowned at Scone.

SUMMARISE

-
-
-
-

ACTIVITY TWO: Low Stakes Quiz

Answer the multiple choice questions.

Who is travelling with Macbeth when he first encounters the three sisters?

- a) Macduff
- b) Lennox
- c) Banquo
- d) Duncan

What is Macbeth Thane of at the start of the play?

- e) Scotland
- f) Glamis
- g) Cawdor
- h) Fife

What prophecy do the sisters give Banquo in Act 1?

- a) That he will be made Thane of Cawdor
- b) That his son will be made Thane of Cawdor
- c) That his sons will be made princes
- d) That his sons will be made kings

What 'sign' convinces Macbeth to kill Duncan?

- a) An apparition of one of the Weird Sisters
- b) A nightmare about one of the Weird Sisters
- c) An apparition of a floating dagger
- d) The ghost of his dead father visits him

What does Macbeth accidentally take with him after murdering the king?

- a) The murder weapons
- b) The king's crown
- c) The bible
- d) The King's bloody pillow

Which characters run away shortly after Duncan's death?

- a) Banquo and Fleance
- b) Macbeth and Lady Macbeth
- c) Malcolm and Donalbain
- d) Macduff and his family

What does Macbeth hire men to do?

- a) Protect him from assassins
- b) Kill Macduff and his family
- c) Find the witches so he can talk to them again
- d) Kill Banquo and his son

When he sees them the second time, what four things do the witches show Macbeth?

- a) A head, a blood child, a crown and a serpent
- b) An armed child, a bloody child, a crowned child with a tree in his hand, eight kings followed by Banquo's ghost with a mirror
- c) Armed head, visions, crowned child with a tree in his hand and a battlefield
- d) An armed head, a bloody child, a crowned child with a tree in his hand, eight kings followed by Banquo's ghost with a mirror

Why does Macbeth have Macduff's family and servants killed?

- a) Macduff is not loyal and Macbeth wants to kill his family as they could kill him
- b) Macduff is not loyal to Macbeth, and Macbeth is angry
- c) Macduff is angry with Macbeth and he is afraid
- d) Macduff is not loyal and Macbeth is happy

Towards the end of the play, which words best describe Lady Macbeth's behaviour in this Act?

- a) Confident, egotistical and boastful
- b) Ambitious, power-driven and determined
- c) Psychotic, unstable and melodramatic
- d) Obsessive, paranoid and unhinged

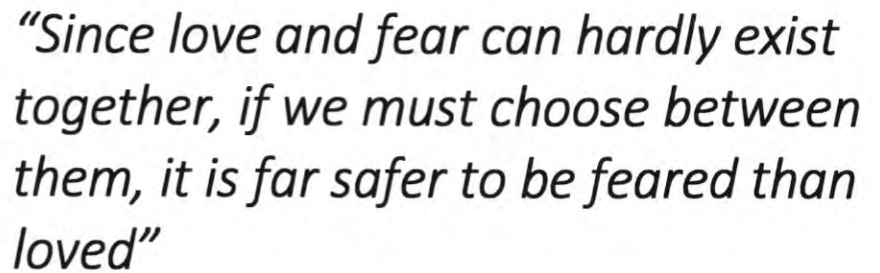
Macbeth does not fear death at the hands of the rebels because he has...

- a) Extensive battle experience
- b) Faith in the witches' prophecies
- c) Little reason to go on living
- d) No awareness of the rebels' strength

In the last scene, Macbeth fights to the death because he...

- a) is given no other choice
- b) thinks that Macduff can be easily defeated
- c) does not believe Macduff's claims about his birth
- d) prefers an honourable defeat to a humiliating surrender

Read the information and complete the tasks




TASK: What do you think the cover of 'The Prince' by Machiavelli is telling us about power? What do you think this quotation means? Explain your ideas, referring to the quotation.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Machiavellianism

Read the information and complete the tasks

Ma|chia|vel|lian

[ˌmɑːkiəˈvelɪən] 

ADJECTIVE

1. cunning, scheming, and unscrupulous, especially in politics.
"a whole range of outrageous Machiavellian manoeuvres"
synonyms: devious · cunning · crafty · artful · wily · sly · scheming

NOUN

1. a person who schemes in a Machiavellian way.
synonyms: conspirator · co-conspirator · conspirer · plotter



NOTE: The types of political behaviour which are discussed with approval by Machiavelli in *The Prince* were thought of as shocking by contemporaries, and its immorality is still a subject of serious discussion.

Read the extract from 'The Prince' and define the words in bold.

Every prince may desire to be thought clement. But it was Cesare Borgia's cruelty which brought peace and unity to the Romagna. A prince who keeps his **subjects** united and loyal, ought not to mind the **reproach** of cruelty; for too much **mercy** will allow disorder to injure the whole people, whilst a few executions offend only individuals.

Is it better to be loved or feared? One might wish to be both, but they are not met in the same person. Because this is to be **asserted** in general of men, that they are ungrateful, fickle, false, cowardly, **covetous**, and as long as you succeed they are yours entirely. They will offer you their blood, property, life, and children when the need is far distant; but when it approaches they turn against you. The prince who relies on their promises is ruined; because friendships that are obtained by payments, and not by greatness or nobility of mind, may indeed be earned, but they are not secured, and in time of need cannot be relied upon. Men will readily offend a beloved, for love is preserved by the link of obligation which men will break at every opportunity for their advantage; but fear preserves you by a dread of punishment which never fails.

TASK ONE: DEFINE IT	TASK TWO: SUMMARISE IT
Use a dictionary to define the highlighted words.	Summarise Machiavelli's argument in fifty words or fewer.
TASK THREE: TRANSFORM IT	TASK FOUR: CONSIDER IT
Transform Machiavelli's argument into TWO images. Label your images with quotations.	Explain how Machiavelli's argument relates to Macbeth's actions.

Read the extract from 'The Prince' and define the words in bold.

Many men believe the affairs of the world are governed by fortune and God, so that men cannot direct them. Fortune may direct one-half of our actions, but she still leaves us to direct the other half. She may be like the raging flood, which sweeps away trees and buildings. But that does not mean that, when the waters settle, men cannot make barriers against such misfortune.

A man may pursue glory and riches by caution, another with haste, one by force, another by skill, and yet still **attain** their goal. It is not so much the method, but how well they **conform** to the spirit of the times. It is the man who cannot change from his nature or his **accustomed** ways, who is lost. The cautious man who does not know when it is time to turn adventurous is ruined.

Fortune is changeful, yet mankind **steadfast** in their ways, success comes when the two are in agreement. For my part I consider that it is better to be adventurous than cautious, because fortune is a woman, and if you wish to control her it is necessary to beat and ill-use her; and she allows herself to be mastered by the adventurous. She is, therefore, always, woman-like, a lover of young men, because they are less cautious, more violent, and with more **audacity** command her.

TASK ONE: DEFINE IT

Use a dictionary to define the highlighted words.

TASK TWO: SUMMARISE IT

Summarise Machiavelli's argument in fifty words or fewer.

TASK THREE: TRANSFORM IT

Transform Machiavelli's argument into TWO images. Label your images with quotations.

TASK FOUR: CONSIDER IT

Explain how Machiavelli's argument relates to Macbeth's actions.

ACTIVITY FOUR: Witchcraft in the time of Shakespeare

Read the information and complete the tasks

"Fair is foul and foul is fair"

Throughout the ages and in all countries there have been people who have believed in witches and witchcraft. The people of Shakespeare's day were no different. Shakespeare drew on the popular traditions of his time and used them for his own purposes. In 'Macbeth' he used popular beliefs about witches and witchcraft.

Witches were associated with the dark and death. In Christian countries they were thought to be the agents of Satan going about their business at night, and they were believed to gather near graves to conduct their evil rites and make poisons.

When Shakespeare wrote Macbeth, witchcraft was a topic of considerable interest. The new king of England, James I, had written a book called Demonology which was published in 1597. called Demonology – a study of witchcraft and its evils. James I tightened up laws against witchcraft in 1604, passing a **statute** where anyone exercising witchcraft 'shall suffer pains of death as a **felon** or felons, and shall lose the privilege and benefit of **clergy** and **sanctuary**.' James I was convinced that a group of witches had raised a storm and tried to drown him and, as a result, considered the works of the devil.

Evidence of a relationship with evil spirits **condemned** a suspect to death by hanging, burning or drowning. Whether Shakespeare himself believed in witches does not matter. He used them for his play, and many of his audience would have believed in them as thoroughly evil servants of the devil. For the people of Shakespeare's time, the devil was very real who they believed spent his time trying to trap men and women into his power. Note that very early in the play Banquo realises this and says as much to Macbeth.

Witches were supposed to be capable of doing all the things that the three weird sisters are said to perform in Macbeth. It was believed that they could see into the future; that they could create storms, hail, thunder and lightning; that they were able to sink ships; dry up springs; stop the sun and change night into day and day into night. They could also cause the death of their enemies, and could make themselves invisible. In order to work their charms they would open graves and steal parts of the bodies to make potions. For this purpose the bodies of unbaptised babies were especially prized. And witches could call up the dead. For a king like Macbeth to visit and have dealings with witches would have seemed both a crime and a sin.

Macbeth is easily captured by their power and by their **prophecies**. But note that they never tell him a lie. However, they do allow him to deceive himself. The devil does not lie...but leads us into temptation.

Source: www.mrsslibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/.../Macbeth-Witches-and-Witchcraft-.docx and @fod3

TASK ONE: LEARN IT		TASK TWO: TRANSFORM IT	
List four things you learn about witches' abilities		Transform the information on witchcraft into three images and label with a quotation.	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
TASK THREE: DEFINE IT		TASK FOUR: CONDENSE IT	
Look at the highlighted words and write their definitions.		Summarise the information in fifty words or fewer.	

ACTIVITY FIVE: Language analysis

Read the extract from 'Witch Child' by Celia Rees and complete the question.

I am Mary.

I am a witch. Or so some would call me. 'Spawn of the Devil', 'Witch child', they hiss in the street, although I know neither father or mother. I know only my grandmother, Eliza Nuttall; Mother Nuttall to her neighbours. She brought me up from a baby. If she knew who my parents are, she has not told me.

'Daughter of the Erl King and the Elfen Queen, that's who you are.'

We live in a small cottage on the very edge of the forest, Grandmother, me and her cat and my rabbit. Lived. Live there no more.



Men came and dragged her away. Men in black coats and hats as tall as steeples. They skewered the cat on a pike, they smashed the rabbit's skull by hitting him against the wall. They said that these were not God's creatures but familiars, the Devil himself in disguise. They threw the mess of fur and flesh on to the midden and threatened to do the same to me, to her, if she did not confess her sins to them.

They took her away then.

She was locked in the keep for more than a week. First they 'walked' her, marching her up and down, up and down between them, for a day and a night until she could no longer hobble, her feet all bloody and swollen. She would not confess. So they set about to prove she was a witch. They called a woman, a Witch Pricker, who stabbed her all over with long pins, probing for the spot that was numb, where no blood ran, the place where the familiars fed. The men watched as the woman did this and my grandmother was forced to stand before their gloating eyes, a naked old lady, deprived of modesty, dignity, the blood streaming down her withered body, and still she would not confess.

They decided to float her. They had plenty of evidence against her, you see. Plenty. All week folk had been coming to them with accusations. How she had overlooked them, bringing sickness to their livestock and families; how she had used magic, sticking pins in wax figures to bring on affliction; how she transformed herself and roamed the country for miles around as a great hare, how she did this by the use of ointment made from melted corpse fat. They questioned me. Demanding, 'Is this so?' She slept in the bed next to me every night. How do I know where she went when sleep took her?

It was all lies. Nonsense and lies.

These people accusing her. They were our friends, our neighbours. They had gone to her, pleading with her for help with beasts and children, sick or injured, a wife nearing her time. For she had the skill, in herbs, potions, in her hands, but the power came from in her, not from the Devil. The people trusted her, or they had until now, they had wanted her presence. Birth or death, my grandmother was asked to be there to assist in the passage from one world to the next.

They were all there for the swimming, standing both sides of the river, lining the bridge, staring down at the place, a wide pool where the water shows black and deep. The men in tall hats dragged my grandmother from the stinking hole where they had been keeping her. They cross bound her, tying her right toe to her left thumb, and vice versa, making sure the cords were thin and taut. Then they threw her in. The crowd watched in silence, the only sound the shuffle of many feet edging forwards to see what she would do.



‘She floats!’

The chant started with just one person remarking, in a quiet voice almost of wonder, then it spread from one to another, until all were shouting with one voice, like some monstrous howling thing. To float was a sure proof of guilt. They hooked her, pulling her back to shore like a bundle of old washing. They did not want her drowning, because that would deprive the people of a hanging.

How does the writer use language to present the treatment of witches?

You could include the writer’s choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms

[illegible]

ACTIVITY SIX: Summarise your learning

**Use the space below to summarise what you have learned so far.
You may decide how to present this summary.**

ACTIVITY SEVEN: The Great Chain of Being

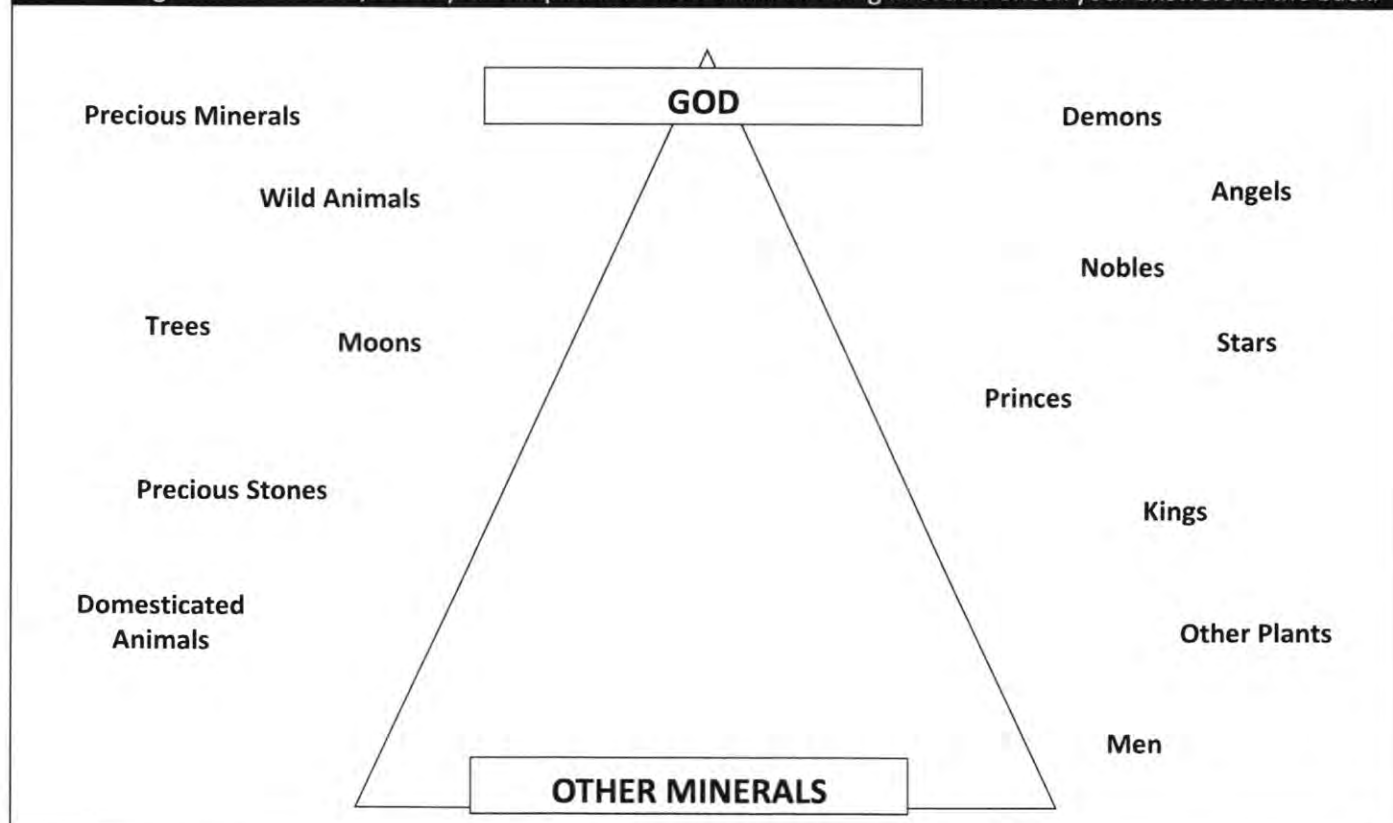
Read the information and complete the tasks.

Elizabethans believed that God set out an order for everything in the universe. This was known as the Great Chain of Being. On Earth, God created a social order for everybody and chose where you belonged. In other words, the king or queen was in charge because God put them there and they were only answerable to God (the Divine Right of Kings). This meant that disobeying the monarch was a sin, which was handy for keeping people in their place! It also led to the idea that if the wrong person was monarch everything would go wrong for a country, including whether the crops would be good, or if animals behaved as they should. The Elizabethans were very superstitious.

The Great Chain of Being includes everything from God and the angels at the top, to humans, to animals, to plants, to rocks and minerals at the bottom. It moves from beings of pure spirit at the top of the Chain to things made entirely of matter at the bottom. Humans are pretty much in the middle, being mostly mortal, or made of matter, but with a soul made of spirit. The theory started with the Greek philosophers Aristotle and Plato, but was a basic assumption of life in Elizabethan England. You were a noble, or a farmer, or a beggar, because that was the place God had ordained for you.

The Great Chain of Being is a major influence on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Macbeth disturbs the natural order of things by murdering the king and stealing the throne. This throws all of nature into uproar, including a story related by an old man that the horses in their stables went mad and ate each other, a symbol of unnatural happenings.

TASK: Using the information, see if you can put the Great Chain of Being in order. Check your answers at the back.



ACTIVITY EIGHT: Shakespeare, 'Macbeth' and the Gunpowder Plot

Read the information and complete the tasks.



It was November, 1605, and high treason was on the mind of every English subject. A small group of angry Catholics, fed up with ongoing persecution at the hands of the Protestant monarchy, hatched an elaborate plot to blow King James I and his government to smithereens. As luck would have it, a warning letter surfaced at the last minute and James ordered a search of his Palace. The most notorious conspirator, Guy Fawkes, was discovered in the cellar, match in hand, ready to

ignite twenty barrels of gunpowder "all at one thunderclap."

To say that Shakespeare would have been familiar with the conspirators is an understatement. These traitors of the realm had some deep connections to Shakespeare and his family. Shakespeare's father, John (undoubtedly a covert Catholic) was friends with William Catesby, the father of the head conspirator, Robert Catesby. John Shakespeare and William Catesby shared illegal Catholic writings that eventually wound up in the attic of John's home in Stratford. Moreover, the Mermaid Tavern in London, frequented by Shakespeare and owned by his closest friend and confidant, was a preferred meeting spot of the turncoats as they schemed to obliterate the Protestants once and for all.

Needless to say, Shakespeare, like his creation Macbeth, was probably tormented by "saucy doubts and fears", waiting to see if he would be the next poor soul taken to the Tower. Theory has it that it is no coincidence Shakespeare decided then to write his only play focused on Scotland. The Bard was about to use all his skills as a great playwright to set the record straight with his sovereign, James I, the son of Mary, Queen of Scots.



While the conspirators suffered the ultimate punishment of being disembowelled and beheaded in front of the cheering masses, Shakespeare would likely have been only a few miles away, holed up in his estate in Stratford, piecing together tales about different Scottish kings from old history books. Change after change was made until the play became a perfect propaganda machine that seemed to clear Shakespeare of any suspicion. James' favourite part of Shakespeare's new take on history would be the near mythological qualities given to the

character created in his image – Macbeth’s victim, King Duncan. While the real Duncan was a war-loving Neanderthal, Shakespeare’s Duncan is a thoughtful, infallible, divinely-appointed ruler with “silver skin” and “golden blood.” Killing old Duncan is a calamity of such epic proportion that it sends the animal kingdom into a tail spin, with mice devouring falcons and horses chowing down on each other.

Many of Macbeth’s themes resonate with the attempted revolt: it’s a play about treason, the overthrow of a King, and the downfall of his murderers. Even more importantly, King James was commonly believed to be descended from Banquo the thane of Lochquhaber, the historical counterpart of Shakespeare’s Banquo, the friend who Macbeth betrays and has murdered. With this in mind the witches’ prophecy that Banquo’s ancestors will be kings takes on a new meaning: it is referring to Banquo’s ancestor James Stuart, King of Scotland and England. By extension, it has been suggested that the escape of Fleance, Banquo’s son, from Macbeth’s murder plot is designed to echo James’s own escape from the Gunpowder plot and to subtly compliment the House of Stuart as legitimate and truly-descended rulers.

A master of details, Shakespeare wove direct references to the Gunpowder plot right into *Macbeth*. To commemorate the discovery of the heinous scheme, King James had a medal created picturing a snake hiding amongst flowers. Lo and behold, we find a nod to the medal right in the play when Lady Macbeth tells her husband to look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it.



Even more significant is an obvious allusion to a Jesuit priest named Father Henry Garnet, who had concealed his knowledge of the conspiracy. When Father Garnet finally confessed, he insisted that his previous perjury was not really perjury because he lied for God’s sake. For this bit of spin doctoring he became known as the great “equivocator” and was promptly hanged. Sure enough, in Act 2, when Macbeth’s Porter wonders what kind of people would enter the gates of hell, he declares:

Faith, here’s an equivocator, that could swear in both the scales against either scale; who committed treason enough for God’s sake, yet could not equivocate to heaven. O, come in, equivocator. (3.2.9-12)

Source: <https://blog.shakespearesglobe.com/post/101835213683/the-gunpowder-plot-and-shakespeares-macbeth>, <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/gunpowderplot.html>

TASK ONE: LEARN IT		TASK TWO: SUMMARISE IT	
Look at the eight statements. Highlight the four that are true.		Summarise in no more than 50 words the connections Shakespeare had to the gunpowder plot.	
<div>1) The gunpowder plot took place in 1605.</div> <div>2) Shakespeare's father was friends with the father of the main conspirator of the plot.</div> <div>3) The Mermaid Tavern was owned by Shakespeare.</div> <div>4) Macbeth is a play about treason, the overthrow of a King, and the downfall of his murderers, all themes that relate to the gunpowder plot.</div> <div>5) The witches prophesy that Banquo's ancestors will die.</div> <div>6) King James created a medal picturing a snake hiding amongst rocks.</div> <div>7) Shakespeare compliments the House of Stuart as legitimate and truly-descended rulers in his play.</div> <div>8) Lady Macbeth tells her husband to look like a serpent.</div>			
TASK THREE: TRANSFORM IT			
Transform the information on witchcraft into three images and label with a quotation.			

ACTIVITY NINE: Analysing structure

Read the extract from 'Treason' by James Jackson and complete the question.

The following extract is taken from the end of a novel. This part of the novel details Guy Fawkes' actions before the gunpowder plot is foiled.

A few hours later, Fawkes checked the timepiece. It was approaching midnight. The day had contained its share of incidents, including an encounter with a roving patrol who asked questions and mounted a superficial inspection of the undercroft beneath the House of Lords. Heightened security was to be expected before tomorrow's events. The soldiers seemed bored, their searching half-hearted. They departed without discovering what lay close at hand.



Dressed in a hat and cloak and with spurs fitted to his boots, the mercenary again shuttered his lantern and hid deep within the shadows. He did not expect to be disturbed. In the hours before dawn he would set the fuse and slip away, crossing the river and finding his horse before heading for the coast. A longer route was preferable to dodging informants and

risking all in a dash to board a barque upon the Thames. Even as the King proceeded to his death, his killer would be under sail.

This was it. He shivered a little at the cold and wondered what was happening beyond the confines of his cellar. None could fault his devotion or his steadiness in the face of danger. For years he had worked to effect a miracle, and tomorrow a King was to gather with his bishops and nobles and then all would simply vanish. Praise to be God.

Out of the silence came the sound of wood splintering. Voices raked the stillness, harsh light flooding the undercroft. Fawkes pressed himself into the corner, his own understanding bitterly illuminated. They must have known, had waited and watched and left him to his own devices. It was the cruellest of fates. But he was a soldier accepting of misfortune, a holy warrior who would never submit. He thought of Catesby and his companions riding hard for the Midlands. His task now was to ensure their survival and escape.

'Your name?'

Men with muskets and drawn swords converged, their features obscured in the glare of lamps. A figure loomed in a fine doublet, wielding a rapier with an unpractised hand. The ceremonial puppet might be the first to die, mused Fawkes.

'I am called John Johnson.'

'Whom do you serve?'

'My master is Sir Thomas Percy.'

'Mine is the King.' The man bristled with self-importance. 'I am Sir Thomas Knevett, member of His Majesty's Privy Chamber and Justice of Peace.'

Fawkes gestured to his surroundings. 'Peace is what you find here.'

'Yet you are dressed and spurred as though readied for flight.'

'Flight?' The mercenary feigned confusion.

'Thomas Percy is a papist* and recusant* and known support of sedition*.' Knevett revelled in his own performance. 'And here you stand, his servant.'

'I tend firewood, that is all.'

The Justice peered towards the piled monument of sacks and timber. 'There is sufficient to warm a palace for a hundred years.'

Fawkes nodded thoughtfully. 'My master feels the winter chill.'

'Soon he shall endure the heat.' The command came almost as an afterthought: 'Seize him and search him well.'

Several of the soldiers rushed him. His reflex was to fight, and yet it ended as it was meant to, his face bloodied, his clothing torn and his hands bound fast behind his back. With a shout of triumph, the proof was methodically laid bare.

'Matches, touchwood, slow fuses and a gold pocket watch of worth.' Knevett took ownership of the items. 'Unusual objects for a servant to possess.'

Fawkes remained defiant. 'I have many duties.'

'High treason sits among them.'

In time, they would force confession, ensure he cried out and beseeched the Lord for death. That was for another day. The hours has passed into Tuesday 5th November. A plot had been foiled and a King would continue to reign.

*Papist – a Roman Catholic

***Recusant** – a person who refuses to submit to authority.

***Sedition** – behaviour inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch.

You need to think about the **whole** of the **source**. This text is from the end of a novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning.
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the Source develops.
- Any other structural features that interest you.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

ACTIVITY TEN: The Role of Women

Read the information and complete the tasks.

Patriarchal Society

Elizabethan society was patriarchal, meaning that men were considered to be the leaders and women their inferiors. Women were regarded as "the weaker sex", not just in terms of physical strength, but emotionally too. It was believed that women always needed someone to look after them. If they were married, their husband was expected to look after them. If they were single, then their father, brother or another male relative was expected to take care of them.

Housewives and Mothers

Even though there had been an unmarried woman on the throne in Elizabethan England, the roles of women in society were very limited. There were very clear expectations of men and women, and in general men were expected to be the breadwinners and women to be housewives and mothers. On average, a woman gave birth to a child every two years, but as a lot of babies and children died from sickness, families were not always large. Childbearing was considered a great honour to women, as children were seen as blessings from God.

Professional Women

Women were not allowed to enter the professions i.e law, medicine, politics, but they could work in domestic service as cooks, maids, etc. Women were also allowed to write works of literature, providing the subject was suitable for women: mainly translations or religious works. Women were not allowed to act on the public stage or write for the public stage. Acting was considered dishonourable for women. In Shakespeare's plays, the roles of women were often played by young boys.

Marriage

A man was considered to be the head of a marriage, and he had the legal right to chastise his wife. However, it is important to understand what this "headship" meant. It did not mean, as is often supposed, that the husband was able to command his wife to do anything he pleased. He was expected to take care of her, make sure she had everything she needed, and most importantly to love her and be a good father to any children they had. If a husband felt the need to chastise his wife, then he was not allowed to be cruel or inflict bodily harm. If he did abuse his wife, then he could be prosecuted or prevented from living with her. There was no divorce: marriage generally lasted as long as the couple both lived.

TASK: Sum up each heading in one sentence

Patriarchal Society

Housewives and Mothers

Professional Women

Marriage

ACTIVITY ELEVEN: Summarise your learning

**Use the space below to summarise what you have learned so far.
You may decide how to present this summary.**

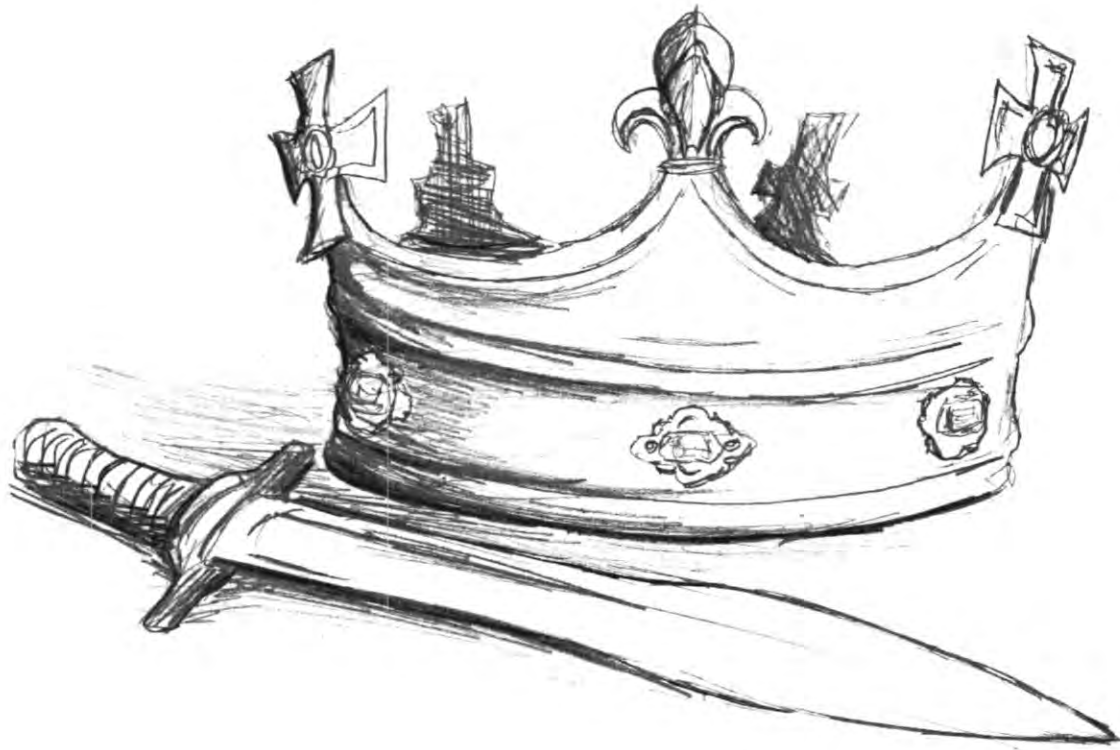
NOTES

Use the space below to make any extra notes you may need.

ANSWERS

Check your answer for the Great Chain of Being activity.





'Blood will have blood.'

- Macbeth

GCSE English Literature

Remote Learning Booklet

Name:

Class:

Teacher:

In the event of school closure, work through the activities in this booklet for 70 minutes during each timetabled slot for English. If you are unsure how to complete an activity, email your teacher who will do their best to assist you. If you do not have access to email, move on to the next activity in the booklet.



Macbeth

MACBETH

The following activities are designed around retrieval practice. This means they focus on content already taught. Do your best to answer the questions without looking at your notes or the text. Answers for some of the activities can be found at the back of this booklet so you can mark your answers once you have finished. Be sure to revise anything you got wrong when reviewing your learning.

Activity 1: Retrieval Grid

Consider the following questions in the retrieval grid and answer them in the blank grid below. Consider the amount of points each question is worth. The higher the amount of points, the longer ago we studied the content. Attempt to answer in as much detail as possible.

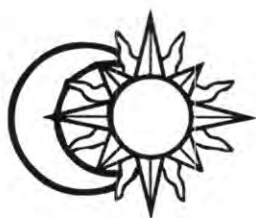
What becomes of Lady Macbeth at the end of the play?	Who leads the attack against Macbeth's castle near the end of the play?	Why do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth continually ask for darkness throughout the play?	How is Duncan's blood and skin described by Macbeth upon 'discovery' of the king's body?
What are the prophecies given to Macbeth and Banquo?	Who does the Porter imagine is knocking on the castle gates, or hell-gate'?	Why does Macbeth kill Macduff's children and what is the correct term for this?	What becomes of Macbeth at the end of the play?
What are 'hands' symbolic of in the play?	What does Lady Macbeth have by her side as she sleepwalks and why is this significant?	How is Macbeth described by the Captain in his report and why is he described in this way?	What does the term 'hamartia' mean and what is Macbeth's?

One Point	Two Points	Three Points	Four Points
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Turn to the answers section of the booklet at the back and mark your answers. If your answer differs to the ones printed in the booklet, it is not necessarily incorrect but what is printed in the booklet is what I would expect you to have considered. Add in any missing gaps in knowledge in a different colour pen so you know what the focus of your revision should be. Once you have marked your answers, move on to the next activity.

Activity 2: Picture Prompts

Consider the following icons. Explain how each image is connected to Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. Try and do this from memory. If you need to look at your notes or a copy of the play to add a note, write it in a different colour so you can see the missing gaps in your knowledge. Try not to just repeat the plot. Think about what Shakespeare is saying about each idea and why he is saying it.



Now look at the answers section in the back of the booklet. If what you have added does not appear, it does not mean that it is incorrect. The answers simply detail the basic knowledge I would expect you to add.

Activity 3: Word Challenge Grid

Below are two grids containing a selection of random words. Connect each of the words to 'Macbeth', explaining how they link to the plot, characters or themes of Shakespeare's play. The words have been selected at random so some may be a challenge but ensure you give it a go. There are multiple links that could be made so there are no answers in the back of the booklet for this activity. One has been done for you so you can see what I am expecting. There are no specific answers I am looking for here, so be creative with your links!

hope	challenge	history
walls	money	sound
fear	colour	silence

The Macbeths desire silence when they commit regicide. The slightest noise worries them. Not only is Shakespeare building tension here but the quiet only makes the knocking on the castle gates louder when it eventually occurs, a symbol that Macbeth's fate is out to get him and will not be silenced.

food	books	talk
divide	liberty	lost
unknown	illuminate	plans

Activity 4: Quotation Retrieval

The grid below contains a selection of quotations with words missing. Fill in the missing gaps in each quotation with the correct words and complete the rest of the grid with information on who says the quotation and what it tells us about each character. One has been completed for you. Check your work with the answers at the back of the booklet and correct any mistakes you have made in a different colour.

If you cannot remember a quotation, try and find it in your script before looking at the answers. Haven't got a script? Find it on Google!

Google

Macbeth complete text



Quotation	Who says it?	What does this tell us about their character?
' <u>Fair</u> is <u>foul</u> and foul is <u>fair</u> .'	<i>The Witches</i>	<i>The witches are used at the beginning of the play to show that things are not as they see. The dualism in this statement shows appearance is not always reality.</i>
'Stars _____ your _____, let not _____ see my black and _____ desires.'		
'I do _____ thy nature, It is too full o'th' _____ of human _____.'		
'The raven himself is _____ that croaks the fatal _____ of Duncan under my battlements.'		
'I have no _____ to prick the sides of my _____, but only vaulting _____.'		
'Is this a _____ which I see before me.'		

'I fear thou play'dst most _____ for't.'		
'We have _____ the snake, not killed it.'		
'Thou canst not _____ I did it. Never _____ thy _____ locks at me.'		
'_____ damned _____.'		
'Tomorrow and _____ and _____, creeps in this petty pace from _____ to _____.'		
'This dead _____ and his _____ queen.'		

Now mark your answers at the back of the booklet. Add in any missing gaps in your knowledge in a different colour pen and focus your revision on what you got incorrect.

The following activities are designed around academic reading. This means you will be given an article to read and answer questions on. These articles have been selected because they will aid your understanding of Shakespeare's play and the big ideas he explores. There are no answers at the back of the booklet for this section so do your best. If you need any assistance, email your teacher and if you have no access to email, do what you can and then move on to the next activity.

Activity 5: Pre-Reading Activities

BRITISH
LIBRARY

This section of the booklet will focus on extracts from 'Conjuring Darkness in Macbeth', an article that can be found on the British Library website. Before you read the extracts, complete the following pre-reading activities to help you understand what the article. Answer in full sentences. If you would like to access the full article, you can find it here: <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/conjuring-darkness-in-macbeth>

Pre-Reading questions

- 1) The British Library have filed this article under the following categories. Make notes around each category which explain how they link to 'Macbeth'.

TRAGEDIES

LANGUAGE

- 2) The summary for the article reads as:

Much of *Macbeth* is set at night, yet its first performances took place in the open air, during daylight hours. John Mullan explores how Shakespeare uses speech and action to conjure the play's sense of growing darkness.

What does the word 'conjure' mean? _____

What does the word 'action' mean in this context? _____



This picture shows a chandelier above the stage of a 17th century playhouse. Using the picture and the summary above, predict what ideas you think the article is going to explore:

I think this article _____

Activity 6: Guided Reading

Read the article. Highlight two sentences in each paragraph which you deem to be the most important. Down the left-hand side, add a title for each paragraph. On the right-hand side, summarise what each paragraph is saying in two or three bullet points. This follows the guided reading strategy we have used in class. One has been done for you so you can see what your work should look like.

Paragraph Titles

*Imagining
darkness in
daylight*

Conjuring Darkness in Macbeth – Part 1

It is strange to think that *Macbeth* was almost certainly written for, and first performed at, the open-air Globe Theatre, where plays were staged in daylight. 'Light thickens, and the crow / Makes wing to th' rooky wood' (3.2.50–51), says Macbeth – but the actor first speaking these words did so in the bright light of day. The palpable gathering of darkness that the speaker describes and welcomes had to be imagined by Shakespeare's audience. We know for certain that *Macbeth* was performed in daylight at the Globe, for the astrologer Simon Forman records seeing it performed there in 1610. It had first been staged in 1606. Even if it were later performed at the indoor theatre at Blackfriars, where plays were illuminated by candlelight and where darkness was obtainable, this theatre was not available to Shakespeare's company until 1608–09. It seems clear, then, that Shakespeare conceived it as a play where darkness had to be theatrically conjured rather than literally provided.

In modern times, productions of the play have given directors opportunities for many a special theatrical effect that has depended on alternations of darkness and concentrated light. Yet the original play, by having to create these alternations in the imagination, powerfully merges literal and metaphorical darkness. Shakespeare did have some special effects to hand: *Macbeth* begins with 'thunder and lightning' and, in the performances at the Globe, this lightning might have been represented by flashes from fireworks, as was done with other plays of the period. But, for the most part, in the bright daylight of a Thameside afternoon, the darkness that seems to envelop the play had to be created by words and gestures.

Key scenes of the play are set at night, and even in many of the daytime scenes characters are aware of the fading of the light. The Witches who open the play agree that they will meet Macbeth 'ere the set of sun' (1.1.5); Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle at evening (Act 1, Scene 6); the First Murderer, instructed by Macbeth to kill Banquo and Fleance, notes how 'The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day' (3.3.5). We often feel darkness coming, especially because both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth seem to invoke and invite it. They need darkness to do their worst.

On a stage crowded with Duncan and his thanes, Macbeth speaks in one of his asides that allow us to hear his unspoken thoughts. 'Stars, hide your fires, / Let not light see my black and deep desires' (1.4.50–51). This is the first reference to darkness in the play. He has just found out that he has become Thane of Cawdor, as prophesied by the Witches, and that Duncan is to visit his castle. The underside of the roof covering much of the stage of the Globe was decorated with painted stars, so Macbeth's invocation is like a spell to darken the very space in which he stands. In the next scene, Lady Macbeth, excited by the tidings that the king is to come 'tonight' to her castle, brings on a kind of conjuration of darkness. 'Come, thick night, / And pall thee in the dunest smoke of hell' (1.5.50–51). She has not heard her husband's words as we have done, yet she seems to echo them with her wish that 'heaven' not 'peep through the blanket of the dark / To cry, 'Hold, hold!'' (1.5.53–54)

Bullet Point

Paragraph Summary

- Performances were staged out in the open.
- Audiences had to imagine darkness on stage.

Paragraph Titles

Conjuring Darkness in Macbeth – Part 2

Bullet Point Paragraph Summary

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth separately call on darkness not just to assist their plans but to hide their deeds from 'Heaven' or their own consciences. 'Let ... The eye wink at the hand' (1.4.51–52), says Macbeth, as if the dark might hide his own action from himself. Later he echoes his wife's when he talks to her of his planned murder of his friend Banquo, but in such way that she might remain 'innocent of the knowledge' of what he is about to do (3.2.45). 'Come, seeling night, / Scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day,' he continues. *Seeling* is a metaphor taken from hawking, where a hawk has its eyelids sewed shut in order to be trained. Macbeth looks forward to the darkness that will facilitate his murderous plans. But it is more than this. Day is 'pitiful', and in his ruthless actions Macbeth must escape pity. In his imagining, darkness is a psychological space, where scruple can be shed, compunction lost.

Audiences will be most aware of the gathering of darkness when Duncan comes to stay at Macbeth's castle. What Lady Macbeth chillingly calls 'This night's great business' (1.5.68) must happen in the dark. Servants carrying torches enter at Act 1, Scene 7 to signify that night has fallen. And it gets yet darker. At the opening of Act 2, Banquo's son Fleance carries a torch when he enters with his father. It is after twelve and 'The moon is down' (2.1.2): it is pitch dark. With a brilliant touch, Shakespeare lets us hear how different characters make their own sense of the blackness. 'There's husbandry in heaven, / Their candles are all out' (2.1.4–5), says Banquo, fancifully – and unconsciously reminds us of the obscuring of Heaven and starlight for which Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have wished.

Now, in this deep darkness, characters cannot see each other even by the light of torches. 'Who's there?' asks Banquo as Macbeth enters with a torch-bearing servant (2.1.10). It is the same nervous exclamation as begins Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and as in the first scene of that play, which begins in darkness on the battlements of Elsinore, the audience at the Globe would have been able to see very clearly how the characters on stage were unable to see clearly. A little later, after Banquo has retired, Lady Macbeth enters and catches herself starting at the shriek of an owl, just before her husband comes to meet her. 'Who's there? What ho?' (2.2.8) asks Macbeth, and at first she hardly seems to recognise him: 'My husband!' (2.2.13). Their dialogue creates a darkness in which sounds and apprehensions are amplified: 'Didst thou not hear a noise?' (2.2.14), 'Did not you speak?' (2.2.16). The terrible deed has been done and the darkness that made it possible concentrates their fears.

The discovery of Duncan's murder is followed by an odd little scene, which must take place several days later, in which Ross and an Old Man discuss unnatural events that seem to have accompanied the killing. Shakespeare takes from his source story in Holinshed's *Chronicles* the report that after Donwald murdered King Duff 'For the space of six monenths together ... there appeered no sunne by day, nor moone by night in anie part of the realme'. In the wake of Duncan's killing, darkness appears to have seeped from the night into the day. 'By th' clock 'tis day, / And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp' (2.4.6–7), observes Ross. Without any help from artificial lighting effects, we gain an impression of 'night's predominance' (2.4.8), as he calls it.

Conjuring Darkness in Macbeth – Part 3

When we return to Macbeth he has been crowned king but fears Banquo and 'his royalty of nature' (3.1.49). He must again call darkness to his aid. Banquo tells him that he is riding out and will probably be 'a borrower of the night / For a dark hour or twain' (3.1.26–27) before he returns for Macbeth's feast. Night will, of course, facilitate the arrangement of his murder, and when Macbeth instructs the two Murderers on their mission, he echoes Banquo's own phrasing. Fleance, he tells the hired killers, must 'embrace the fate / Of that dark hour' (3.1.136–37). As so often in this play, darkness is simultaneously metaphorical and literal. The 'dark hour' is the time of killing – but also the lightless time when a trap can be sprung. When the Murderers attack Banquo, it is darkness that allows them to surprise him – but also that allows Fleance to escape. 'Who did strike out the light?' asks the Third Murderer (3.3.19). Darkness is not the friend to Macbeth that he believes. Fate is not his to command.

Darkness may seem to become Macbeth's element, but his wife, once the prime mover of their plots, comes to dread it. Watching her sleepwalking, her Gentlewoman tells the Doctor that 'she has light by her continually, 'tis her command' (5.1.22). '*Enter Lady with a Taper*' is the stage instruction in the First Folio, on which text all later editions are based. The taper, the smallest kind of candle, is Lady Macbeth's safeguard against the powers of darkness. These were once the powers that she invoked, but now they crowd in on her. Once she called 'Come, thick night, / And pall thee in the dunest smoke of hell' (1.5.50–51); now she feels and fears 'Hell is murky' (5.1.36). In her final scene before her death, Shakespeare shows how the horror of her deeds has possessed her, and does so by dramatising the most elemental and childlike of fears: fear of the dark.

Summarise the article in one paragraph.

Activity 7: Post-Reading Questions

Answer the following questions on the article above. Remember to answer in full sentences. If there is a question you are not sure about, email your teacher or miss it out and come back to it when you have finished the rest of the activities. If you need extra space, write on a different piece of paper and attach it to this booklet once you have finished.

1. What were some of the special effects theatres employed to create thunder and lightning?
2. Why do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ask for darkness at the beginning of the play?
3. Why do you think Macbeth describes day as 'pitiful' when he asks for darkness to come?
4. How does Shakespeare signify night has fallen before Duncan's murder takes place?
5. The article states that 'in the wake of Duncan's killing, darkness appears to have seeped from the night into the day.' What do you think this means and what is this symbolic of?
6. The article says, 'The taper, the smallest kind of candle, is Lady Macbeth's safeguard against the powers of darkness.' Why do you think Lady Macbeth's light is so small? What could this symbolise?
7. Characters come to 'fear the dark'. What does this remind you of? What do you think Shakespeare is saying here?

Activity 8: Further Questions

Answer the following questions on the article. These questions require shorter answers and can be answered as notes and brief annotations. If you need extra space, write on a different piece of paper and attach it to this booklet. If you need a copy of the script, you can find one online. Check your answers at the back of the booklet when you have finished.



Macbeth complete text



Shakespeare did have some special effects to hand: Macbeth begins with 'thunder and lightning' and, in the performances at the Globe, this lightning might have been represented by flashes from fireworks, as was done with other plays of the period.

1. Why does Shakespeare open the play with thunder and lightning?
2. Why do the witches appear in thunder and lightning?
3. How does Shakespeare use speech in this scene to let the audience know what kind of weather the witches meet in?

We often feel darkness coming, especially because both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth seem to invoke and invite it. They need darkness to do their worst.

1. Retrieve a short quotation where Macbeth asks for darkness.
2. Retrieve a short quotation where Lady Macbeth asks for darkness.
3. What is darkness symbolic of?

Audiences will be most aware of the gathering of darkness when Duncan comes to stay at Macbeth's castle. What Lady Macbeth chillingly calls 'This night's great business' (1.5.68) must happen in the dark.

1. What does Duncan initially think of Macbeth's castle when he first arrives. Retrieve a short quotation.
2. What does the Porter joke the castle has become in the scene after Duncan's murder?

A little later, after Banquo has retired, Lady Macbeth enters and catches herself starting at the shriek of an owl, just before her husband comes to meet her. 'Who's there? What ho?' (2.2.8) asks Macbeth, and at first she hardly seems to recognise him: 'My husband!' (2.2.13). Their dialogue creates a darkness in which sounds and apprehensions are amplified: 'Didst thou not hear a noise?' (2.2.14), 'Did not you speak?' (2.2.16). The terrible deed has been done and the darkness that made it possible concentrates their fears.

1. What kind of character is Banquo in the play?
2. Why are the Macbeths so afraid of noise?
3. Lady Macbeth only calls Macbeth by the name of 'husband' once in the play. Why do you think this is?

Darkness may seem to become Macbeth's element, but his wife, once the prime mover of their plots, comes to dread it. Watching her sleepwalking, her Gentlewoman tells the Doctor that 'she has light by her continually, 'tis her command' (5.1.22). 'Enter Lady with a Taper' is the stage instruction in the First Folio, on which text all later editions are based. The taper, the smallest kind of candle, is Lady Macbeth's safeguard against the powers of darkness.

1. Retrieve a short quotation which shows Lady Macbeth is scared of darkness.
2. What kind of character is Lady Macbeth at the end of the play?

The following activities are designed around exam questions. This means you will complete a series of small activities to help you answer an essay question like the one you will receive in your GCSE Literature paper. Use the notes from this booklet and a copy of the text to help you prepare.

Activity 9: Essay Preparation

You will be answering the following question:

Read the extract and answer the question that follows:

DUNCAN

My plenteous joys,
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves
In drops of sorrow. Sons, kinsmen, thanes,
And you whose places are the nearest, know
We will establish our estate upon
Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter
The Prince of Cumberland; which honour must
Not unaccompanied invest him only,
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine
On all deservers. From hence to Inverness,
And bind us further to you.

MACBETH

The rest is labour, which is not used for you:
I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So humbly take my leave.

DUNCAN

My worthy Cawdor!

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.

Starting with this extract, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character.

You could write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character in the play as a whole.

Highlight and annotate the extract with initial ideas that jump out at you. What could you discuss from the extract in your answer?

Complete the following analytical verbs to help you explore Shakespeare's authorial intent with Macbeth's character. Authorial intent is when you explain **what** an author is doing and **why** they are doing it. The 'why' is extremely important and often missed out by students in their exams so that is what we are going to start with today. One has been done for you.

Shakespeare may be presenting Macbeth as an ambitious character:

- to warn audiences of the tragic consequences that could occur if one is blinded by their desires.
- to teach
- to reveal the importance of
- to criticise
- to advocate

Pick three of your sentences from above and rewrite them below. This time, extend your sentences with the connectives 'because', 'but' or 'so'. Look at the example below to help you.

Shakespeare may be presenting Macbeth as an ambitious character to warn audiences of the tragic consequences that could occur if one is blinded by their desires so he traps his eponymous tragic hero in a cyclical nature of violence which eventually leads to his downfall.

1.

2.

3.

Pick one of the sentences above. Copy it out again. Extend it by using one analytical verb to lead in to a second analytical verb in order to explore more of Shakespeare's authorial intent. Look at the example below to help you.

Shakespeare may be presenting Macbeth as an ambitious character to warn audiences of the tragic consequences that could occur if one is blinded by their desires, so he traps his eponymous tragic hero in a cyclical nature of violence which eventually leads to his downfall. By warning his audience about this, Shakespeare is also criticising ambitious people and the lengths they would go to in order to get what they want, a reference perhaps to the plotters who aimed to blow up Parliament in order to kill the king but failed.

1.

Write down five quotations you could use in your essay. They do not necessarily have to be spoken by Macbeth himself. One has been done for you to give you a sixth quotation.

'We will proceed no further in this business.'

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Use your analytical verbs to quickly explain what Shakespeare is doing with each quotation. You do not need to write in full sentences as this is just a plan. Look at the example to help you.

Eg. 'We will proceed no further in this business.' – revealing that even though Macbeth has had these thoughts, he is still wary of going ahead with the murder.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Activity 10: I Do

Identify the following in this example response which I have pre-prepared.

- Clear points at the beginning of each paragraph which relate to the question
- Embedded quotations
- Single word analysis
- Analytical verbs
- Authorial intent (what the writer is doing and why they are doing it.)
- Social/historical context

Pay close attention to how I am writing. You should aim to replicate this style of writing in your own answer.

Macbeth's ambitions are inextricably linked with violence; he needs to commit violent acts in order to achieve what he wants. Perhaps this is why he sees a dagger, which directs him to Duncan's chambers. His ambition is making him see it. He even comments that 'it is the bloody business' which is causing him to hallucinate, suggesting Macbeth himself is aware that violence is the key to unlocking his ambition. Shakespeare may have used 'bloody' to warn audiences that if Macbeth does not change his ways, he will be stuck in a cyclical nature of violence which will never end, blindly leading him to his downfall. Through this warning, perhaps he wants his audiences to learn of the dangers of ambition and the trouble it can cause, cementing the play's status as pro-royalist propaganda in the wake of the gunpowder plot, an attempt to end the persecution of Roman Catholics by the English government by killing the king. Macbeth's ambitions are not too dissimilar to those of the failed plotters and the lesson is they learn is the same: actions have consequences and no-one can disrupt the Great Chain of Being.

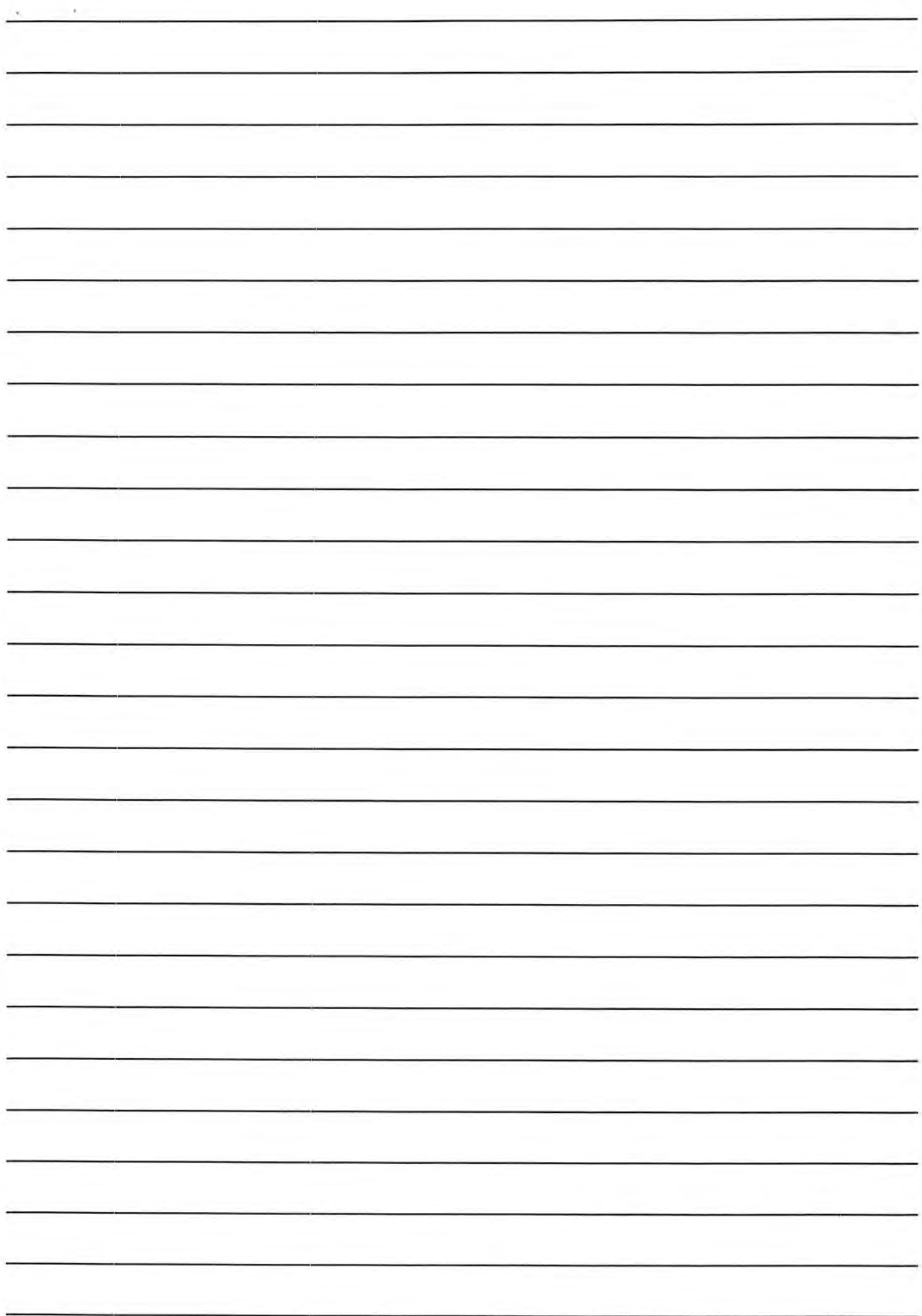
Activity 11: Exam Question

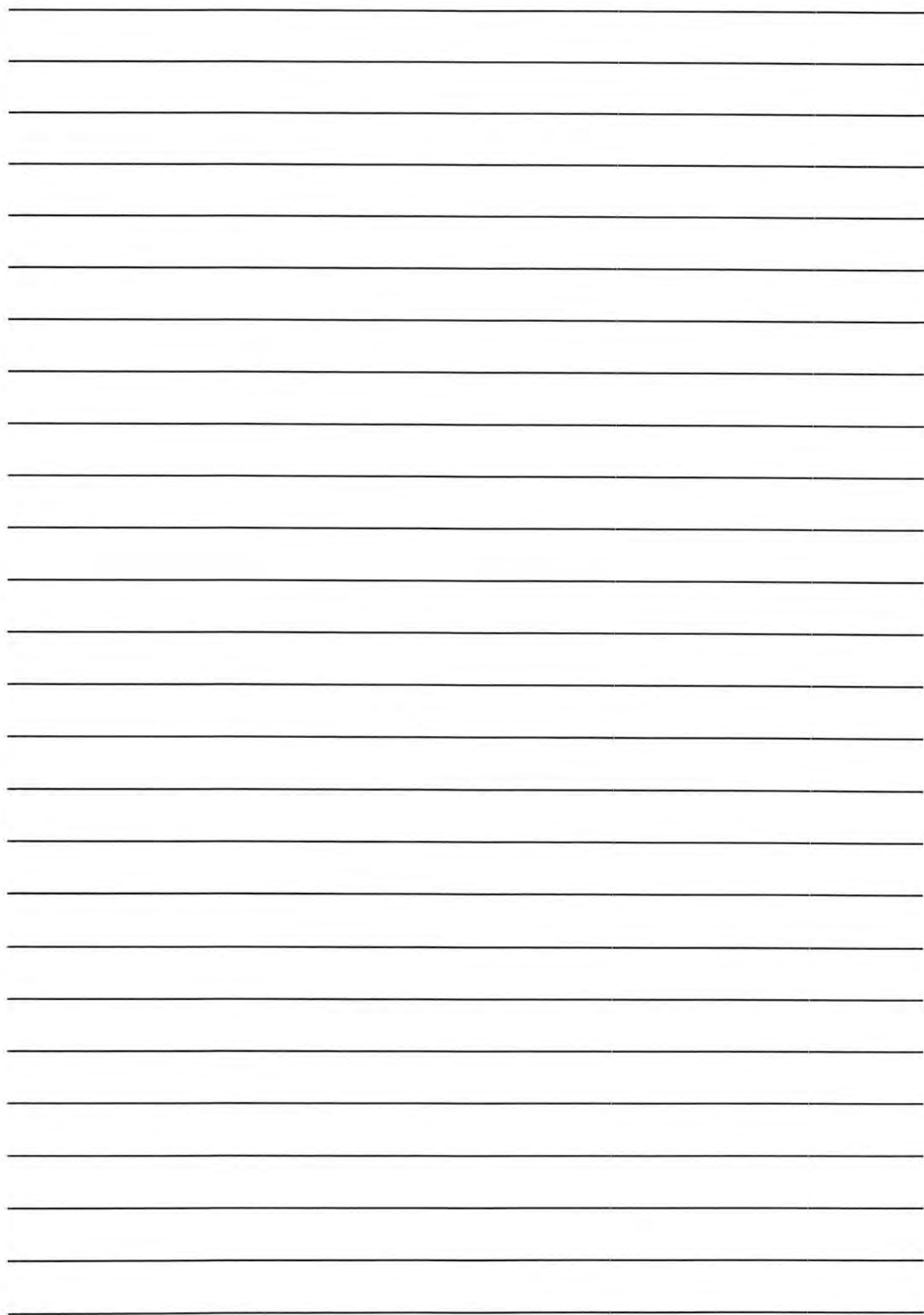
Answer the following exam question. Use everything in this booklet to help you. If you need your copy of the text with you to help, you may use it but remember you will not have a copy in your real exam. Don't forget to include the following:

- Clear points at the beginning of each paragraph which relate to the question
- Quotations
- Single word analysis (You could use your analytical verbs here too. Eg. 'Shakespeare has Macbeth talk about 'ambition' to criticise...')
- Authorial intent (what the writer is doing and why they are doing it.)
- Social/historical context

If you are unsure how to structure your essay, start with what Macbeth is like at the beginning of the play and explain how he develops. Remember, the question is asking 'how far' Shakespeare presents Macbeth as ambitious which means you need to make a decision and then use the essay to explain your thoughts. Is he very ambitious, partially ambitious or not ambitious at all? Why? Use the paragraph above to help you start if needed.

Starting with this extract, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character.





'Macbeth' Answers

Retrieval Grid

Mark your answers to the following questions:

What becomes of Lady Macbeth at the end of the play?	Who leads the attack against Macbeth's castle near the end of the play?	Why do Macbeth and Lady Macbeth continually ask for darkness throughout the play?	How is Duncan's blood and skin described by Macbeth upon 'discovery' of the king's body?
What are the prophecies given to Macbeth and Banquo?	Who does the Porter imagine is knocking on the castle gates, or hell-gate'?	Why does Macbeth kill Macduff's children and what is the correct term for this?	What becomes of Macbeth at the end of the play?
What are 'hands' symbolic of in the play?	What does Lady Macbeth have by her side as she sleepwalks and why is this significant?	How is Macbeth described by the Captain in his report and why is he described in this way?	What does the term 'hamartia' mean and what is Macbeth's?

One Point	Two Points	Three Points	Four Points
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Lady Macbeth ends her life after being driven mad by the guilt that consumes her.	Malcolm and Macduff lead the attack against Macbeth's castle.	Macbeth and Lady Macbeth continually ask for darkness so that no one can see the evil acts they commit.	Duncan's skin is described as 'silver' and his blood as 'golden', perhaps highlighting his royal, holy status.
Macbeth is told he will be Thane of Glamis (which he is already), Thane of Cawdor and King. Banquo is told he will not be king but that his children will be.	The Porter images a farmer who has hoarded his produce, an equivocator and a tailor are knocking on the gates of the castle.	Macbeth kills Macduff's children after being told to beware Macduff. Macbeth slaughters Macbeth's wife and children to ensure they are not a threat. The killing of children is called infanticide.	Macbeth is killed by Macduff.
Hands represent honourable and loyal actions at the beginning of the play yet as time progresses, they come to represent dishonesty and betrayal.	Lady Macbeth has a candle by her side. This is significant because she has spent the rest of the play asking for darkness to conceal her actions and now she is afraid of it.	Macbeth is described as 'brave'. Shakespeare is setting up the audiences' expectations so that it is all the more horrific when this loyal character betrays his king.	'Hamartia' is a fatal flaw in one's character. Macbeth's hamartia is his ambition.

Activity 2: Picture Prompts

Consider the basic knowledge I would have expected you to include and add any missing gaps in knowledge in a different colour pen.



Macbeth is tempted with the idea of kingship. The crown offers him power and, in Macbeth's view, invincible. Of course, this is incorrect. The crown could also link to the idea of the Divine Right of Kings, the idea that monarchs were chosen by God to be their spokesperson on earth. To commit regicide would have been the ultimate sin. An attack on the monarch was an attack on God.



Light and darkness is a common theme in the play. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth ask for darkness at the beginning of the play ('stars hide your fires' / 'come thick night') in order to hide their scheming actions. Darkness is symbolic of secrecy. By the end of the play, however, light is desired instead. Lady Macbeth holds a candle near here. She is afraid of darkness and its associations with guilt.



Violence becomes a cycle which is impossible to escape. The Captain confirms that Macbeth is capable of violent actions at the very beginning of the play. As soon as he kills Duncan, however, Macbeth feels violence, which is celebrated at the beginning of the play, is the only way to consolidate and keep his power. Violence actions are committed through the play in a desperate attempt to hold on to power.



Macbeth's fate is linked to the supernatural. The witches look to the future to see what will become of Macbeth and Banquo. Macbeth is very much taken by his prophecy and desires to see more. What could be seen as a positive thing, soon leads Macbeth to his downfall. Banquo's ghost appears to hold Macbeth to account for his actions. Guilt takes on a supernatural form.



Duplicity (being two-faced) is a major theme in the play. Lady Macbeth often instructs Macbeth to look innocent whilst they plan the murder of Duncan. Shakespeare concerns himself with the idea of appearance vs reality. What things appear to be are not always reality.

Quotation Retrieval

Mark your answers for this exercise.

	Quotation	Who says it?	What does this tell us about their character?
	' <u>Fair</u> is <u>foul</u> and foul is <u>fair</u> .'	<i>The Witches</i>	The witches are used at the beginning of the play to show that things are not as they see. The dualism in this statement shows appearance is not always reality.
	'Stars <u>hide</u> your <u>fires</u> , let not <u>light</u> see my black and <u>deep</u> desires.'	<i>Macbeth</i>	Macbeth reveals his desires are 'black', implying he is already having murderous thoughts about killing his king. His ambition is beginning to stir within him and asks for darkness so he can make them a reality in secret.
	'I do <u>fear</u> thy nature, It is too full o'th' <u>milk</u> of human <u>kindness</u> .'	<i>Lady Macbeth</i>	Lady Macbeth does not seem to have faith in her husband. She does not believe he will be able to go through any action that will make them king and queen quickly. Her doubts place her in a position of control.
	'The raven himself is <u>hoarse</u> that croaks the fatal <u>entrance</u> of Duncan under my battlements.'	<i>Lady Macbeth</i>	Lady Macbeth is certain Duncan will die in their castle. This quotation shows she is ambitious and will do anything to get what she wants. The use of 'my' shows she believes she is in control of the situation and Macbeth will follow her lead.
	'I have no <u>spur</u> to prick the sides of my <u>intent</u> , but only vaulting <u>ambition</u> .'	<i>Macbeth</i>	Macbeth realises there is no other reason for him to kill the king besides his ambition and decides to proceed no further. This shows he can still be redeemed at this point because of his reluctance to kill Duncan.
	'Is this a <u>dagger</u> which I see before me.'	<i>Macbeth</i>	Macbeth imagines the violence he will soon be committing. We begin to wonder if Macbeth is of sound mind but the fact the dagger disappears before he kills Duncan shows he is not mad and is in complete control of himself.

'I fear thou play'st most <u>foully</u> for't.'	Banquo	Banquo, a loyal friend of Macbeth's begins to have his doubts. He echoes the witches' words 'foul'. He has his suspicions and this makes him a threat to Macbeth.
'We have <u>scorched</u> the snake, not killed it.'	Macbeth	Macbeth begins to fear for the security of his kingship. He is stumbling into a cycle of violence at this point in the play which he will find it difficult to escape from.
'Thou canst not <u>say</u> I did it. Never <u>shake</u> thy <u>gory</u> locks at me.'	Macbeth	Macbeth's guilt is beginning to consume him. Banquo's ghost appears to him to hold him to account for his actions. His ghost terrifies Macbeth showing he is beginning to lose control of himself. Violence does not come without its consequences.
' <u>Out</u> damned <u>spot</u> .'	Lady Macbeth	Lady Macbeth believes she has a spot of blood on her hand which she cannot scrub away, just like she cannot rid herself of her guilt. She has a light near her as she is afraid of the darkness which is also associated with guilt. Lady Macbeth's fate has caught up with her and she becomes a weak and vulnerable character.
'Tomorrow and <u>tomorrow</u> and <u>tomorrow</u> , creeps in this petty pace from <u>day</u> to <u>day</u> .'	Macbeth	Macbeth, although determined to fight on, seemingly questions the point of life upon hearing news of his wife's death. He had lost all sense of right and wrong, all sense of purpose and has nothing left but to fight for what little he has.
'This dead <u>butcher</u> and his <u>fiend-like</u> queen.'	Malcolm	Malcolm, Duncan's son, describes Macbeth in this way. He believes Macbeth killed for no reason but for himself. Macbeth has left a legacy of blood and death and will be remembered for the tyrannical rule he imposed over Scotland.

Further Questions

Mark your answers:

1. **Why does Shakespeare open the play with thunder and lightning?** To create an atmosphere of fear and terror. The weather could foreshadow the turbulent times Scotland will face throughout the play.
2. **Why do the witches appear in thunder and lightning?** Shakespeare has the witches appear in this weather to show they are characters to be feared; they are associated with supernatural imagery.
3. **How does Shakespeare use speech in this scene to let the audience know what kind of weather the witches meet in?** The witches ask when they will meet again, 'in thunder, lightning or in rain.'
4. **Retrieve a short quotation where Macbeth asks for darkness.** 'Stars hide your fires. Let not light see my black and deep desires.'
5. **Retrieve a short quotation where Lady Macbeth asks for darkness.** 'Come thick night and pall thee in the dunest smokes of hell.'
6. **What is darkness symbolic of?** Guilt, scheming, murderous thoughts, plots and machinations
7. **What does Duncan initially think of Macbeth's castle when he first arrives. Retrieve a short quotation.** He likes the location of the castle. He says it 'hath a pleasant seat.'
8. **What does the Porter joke the castle has become in the scene after Duncan's murder?** He jokes that he is the porter of hell-gate, meaning the castle has become a metaphorical hell.
9. **What kind of character is Banquo in the play?** Noble, loyal, a trusted friend.
10. **Why are the Macbeths so afraid of noise?** The Macbeths worry that noise will lead to discovery of their secrets and plans.
11. **Lady Macbeth only calls Macbeth by the name of 'husband' once in the play. Why do you think this is?**
Perhaps because she believes herself to be superior or to play on the fact that he has somewhat disappointed her with his reaction to Duncan's murder.
12. **Retrieve a short quotation which shows Lady Macbeth is scared of darkness.** 'She has light by her continually, 'tis her command.'
13. **What kind of character is Lady Macbeth at the end of the play?** Weak, vulnerable, scared, like a child.