

GCSE English Literature Paper 1 Section A - Shakespeare

MACBETH

Context	Themes	Key Vocabulary
<p>Audiences at the time were very religious, even believing in what was known as 'the divine right of Kings' which was a belief that kings and queens were put on earth to rule by God (and cure people, as was believed by James 1st at the time of this play). Any references to sin, hell or the devil would have a huge impact on an audience at the time. Women at the time were usually expected to fulfil domestic duties, have children and maintain the home. Not every single woman, but in general. Lady Macbeth therefore is a completely radical female character: she talks about the castle as if it is hers, she controls her fierce warrior husband and arranges for a King to be killed, as well as flirting with dark supernatural forces which would have horrified an audience at the time.</p>	Ambition & Greed	Ambition
	Power & Leadership	Apparition
	Deception & False Appearance	Divine
	Guilt and Remorse	Equivocate
	Violence and Evil	Fiend
	Tragedy	Hamartia
		Incarnadine
	Social/Historical Context	Lechery
	Religion	Regicide
	Role of Women	Soliloquy
	Divine Right of Kings	Supernatural
		Thane
		Tragedy
		Treason
Narrative Summary	Skills	Assessment
<p>A brave Scottish general named Macbeth receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and takes the Scottish throne for himself. He is then wracked with guilt and paranoia.</p>	Annotate the text	Tyrant
	Select quotations	
	Infer/interpret ideas	
	Analyse writer's methods	Practice Exam Question in Class Y11
	Make links to relevant contexts	HT2
	Use precise vocabulary	Mock Exam Y11 HT2

