

# Shakespeare paper: Macbeth

Please read this page, but do not open the booklet until your teacher tells you to start.

Write your name, the name of your school and the title of the play you are writing about on the front cover of your answer booklet.

- The paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long.
- It has two sections:

Section A assesses your writing and has 20 marks;  
Section B assesses your reading and understanding of  
*Macbeth*, and has 18 marks.

- You should spend about:  
**30 minutes on Section A**  
**45 minutes on Section B**
- You should start your answer to Section B on a new page.

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## Section A – Writing

*You should spend about 30 minutes on this section.*

In real life, no one wants to meet a villain like Macbeth, but in books, on stage or on screen, villains can be strangely compelling. After all ...

### **We all love to hate a villain!**

Your English teacher has received the following request:

*Zenith Publishers  
May 2003*

*Dear English teacher*

*We are planning to publish a light-hearted book about villains.*

*For one section, we want short pieces that analyse why villains, despite being threatening, can be so enjoyable to watch or read about.*

*We would welcome contributions from your pupils, perhaps commenting on a couple of particular villains!*

*Yours sincerely*

*Ros Payne  
Commissioning Editor*

**Write a contribution for this book.**

*20 marks including 4 marks for spelling*

**Turn over for Section B**

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## Section B – Reading

*You should spend about 45 minutes on this section.*

### **Macbeth**

Act 1 Scene 7, line 28 to the end of the scene  
Act 5 Scene 1, lines 16 to 58

**What impressions might an audience get of Lady Macbeth from the different ways she speaks and behaves in these extracts?**

*Support your ideas by referring to the extracts which are printed on the following pages.*

***18 marks***

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# Macbeth

## Act 1 Scene 7, line 28 to the end of the scene

**In this extract, Lady Macbeth tries to persuade Macbeth to kill Duncan.**

*Enter LADY [MACBETH]*

MACBETH	How now? What news?	
LADY MACBETH	He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?	
MACBETH	Hath he asked for me?	
LADY MACBETH	Know you not he has?	30
MACBETH	We will proceed no further in this business. He hath honoured me of late, and I have bought Golden opinions from all sorts of people, Which would be worn now in their newest gloss, Not cast aside so soon.	
LADY MACBETH	Was the hope drunk Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since? And wakes it now to look so green and pale At what it did so freely? From this time, Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard To be the same in thine own act and valour, As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life, And live a coward in thine own esteem, Letting I dare not wait upon I would, Like the poor cat i'th'adage?	35       40
MACBETH	Prithee, peace. I dare do all that may become a man; Who dares do more is none.	45
LADY MACBETH	What beast was't then That made you break this enterprise to me? When you durst do it, then you were a man. And to be more than what you were, you would Be so much more the man. Nor time, nor place Did then adhere, and yet you would make both. They have made themselves and that their fitness now Does unmake you. I have given suck and know How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me:	50       55

**Turn over**

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I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums  
And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn  
As you have done to this.

MACBETH

If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail?

But screw your courage to the sticking-place,  
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep,  
Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey  
Soundly invite him, his two chamberlains  
Will I with wine and wassail so convince  
That memory, the warder of the brain, 60  
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason  
A limbeck only. When in swinish sleep  
Their drenchèd natures lies as in a death,  
What cannot you and I perform upon  
Th'unguarded Duncan? What not put upon 65  
His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt  
Of our great quell? 70

MACBETH

Bring forth men-children only,  
For thy undaunted mettle should compose  
Nothing but males. Will it not be received,  
When we have marked with blood those sleepy two 75  
Of his own chamber and used their very daggers,  
That they have done't?

LADY MACBETH

Who dares receive it other,  
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar  
Upon his death?

MACBETH

I am settled and bend up  
Each corporal agent to this terrible feat. 80  
Away, and mock the time with fairest show,  
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

*Exeunt*

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**Act 5 Scene 1, lines 16 to 58**

**In this extract, Lady Macbeth is overheard talking to herself as she sleepwalks.**

*Enter LADY [MACBETH], with a taper*

GENTLEWOMAN	Lo you, here she comes. This is her very guise and, upon my life, fast asleep. Observe her, stand close.	
DOCTOR	How came she by that light?	
GENTLEWOMAN	Why, it stood by her. She has light by her continually, 'tis her command.	20
DOCTOR	You see her eyes are open.	
GENTLEWOMAN	Ay, but their sense are 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.	25
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?	30
DOCTOR	Do you mark that?	35
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.	40

**Turn over**

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LADY MACBETH	Here's the smell of the blood still; all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O, O, O.	
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.	45
DOCTOR	Well, well, well –	
GENTLEWOMAN	Pray God it be, sir.	
DOCTOR	This disease is beyond my practice; yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds.	50
LADY MACBETH	Wash your hands, put on your night-gown, look not so pale. I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out on's grave.	
DOCTOR	Even so?	55
LADY MACBETH	To bed, to bed; there's knocking at the gate. Come, come, come, come, give me your hand; what's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed.	
	<i>Exit</i>	

## END OF TEST