

En

KEY STAGE

3

LEVELS

4–7

English test

# Shakespeare paper: *Richard III*

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 have studied on the cover of your answer booklet.

This booklet contains one task which assesses your reading and understanding of *Richard III* and has 18 marks.

You have **45 minutes** to complete this task.

2007

---

## Richard III

Act 3 Scene 5, lines 1 to 49

Act 4 Scene 2, lines 1 to 45

Imagine you are going to direct these extracts for a classroom performance.

In the first extract Richard and Buckingham work together to deceive the Mayor. In the second, Buckingham seems unwilling to help Richard with his plan to kill the princes.

**How should the actors playing Richard and Buckingham show the relationship between the two characters in these extracts?**

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

**18 marks**



---

RICHARD	Be patient. They are friends – Ratcliffe and Lovell.	
LOVELL	Here is the head of that ignoble traitor, The dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.	
RICHARD	So dear I loved the man that I must weep. I took him for the plainest harmless creature That breathed upon the earth a Christian: Made him my book, wherein my soul recorded The history of all her secret thoughts. So smooth he daubed his vice with show of virtue That, his apparent open guilt omitted – I mean his conversation with Shore’s wife – He lived from all attainder of suspects.	25      30
BUCKINGHAM	Well, well, he was the covert’st sheltered traitor That ever lived! Would you imagine, or almost believe – Were’t not that by great preservation We live to tell it – that the subtle traitor This day had plotted, in the council-house, To murder me and my good Lord of Gloucester?	35
MAYOR	Had he done so?	40
RICHARD	What! Think you we are Turks or infidels? Or that we would, against the form of law, Proceed thus rashly in the villain’s death But that the extreme peril of the case, The peace of England and our persons’ safety, Enforced us to this execution?	45
MAYOR	Now fair befall you! He deserved his death! And your good Graces both have well proceeded To warn false traitors from the like attempts.	



---

KING RICHARD	O bitter consequence! That Edward still should live – ‘true noble Prince!’ Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull. Shall I be plain? I wish the bastards dead! And I would have it suddenly performed. What say’st thou now? Speak suddenly, be brief.	15      20
BUCKINGHAM	Your Grace may do your pleasure.	
KING RICHARD	Tut, tut, thou art all ice. Thy kindness freezes. Say, have I thy consent that they shall die?	
BUCKINGHAM	Give me some little breath, some pause, dear lord, Before I positively speak in this. I will resolve you herein presently.	25
	<i>Exit.</i>	
CATESBY	<i>(Aside to another)</i> The King is angry. See, he gnaws his lip.	
KING RICHARD	<i>(Aside)</i> I will converse with iron-witted fools And unrespective boys – none are for me That look into me with considerate eyes! High-reaching Buckingham grows circumspect. <i>(To the PAGE)</i> Boy!	30
PAGE	<i>(Coming close to the throne)</i> My lord?	
KING RICHARD	Know’st thou not any whom corrupting gold Will tempt unto a close exploit of death?	35
PAGE	I know a discontented gentleman Whose humble means match not his haughty spirit. Gold were as good as twenty orators, And will, no doubt, tempt him to anything.	
KING RICHARD	What is his name?	
PAGE	His name, my lord, is Tyrrel.	40

---

---

KING RICHARD I partly know the man. Go, call him hither, boy.

*Exit PAGE.*

*(Aside)* The deep-revolving witty Buckingham  
No more shall be the neighbour to my counsels.  
Hath he so long held out with me, untired,  
And stops he now for breath? Well, be it so!

45

**END OF TEST**

