







Macbeth KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Context – The play was written by William Shakespeare, and was first performed around 1606

<p>Shakespeare's Time – Shakespeare wrote at the time of two monarchs: Queen Elizabeth I and James I. The plays that he wrote during the period of Queen Elizabeth are generally happy and joyful, reflecting the mood at the time. However, darker plays such as Macbeth were written in the era of James I, which was far more unstable. For example, the gunpowder plot was the year before.</p> 	<p>James I – 1606 was early in the reign of James I, who was an admirer of Shakespeare's play, and a patron of his acting company. It is doubtless, therefore, that Shakespeare had the king in mind when writing a play about Macbeth, a figure from Scottish ancestry. Furthermore, King James's family claimed to have descended from a historical figure named Banquo.</p> 
<p>The Divine Right of Kings – Divine Right asserts that monarchs were appointed from God above, and that any attempt to question them was to question God himself. This was a widely-held view at the time. King James I often quoted divine right to cement his place on the throne. A play involving a good, 'God-given' king, and the demise of a king-killer would no doubt have gone down well with King James at the time.</p> 	<p>The Role of Women – Despite the strength of Elizabeth I's reign, society at the time was patriarchal – women were considered inferior to men. Women belonged to their fathers (or brothers if their fathers had died) and then their husbands. They were not permitted to own land or enter most professions. They were instead expected to bear children, and be gentle and womanly. Lady Macbeth would therefore be at odds with what was expected of women.</p> 
<p>Witches and the Supernatural – At the time of Shakespeare, the belief in witches and the supernatural was extremely strong, and many so-called 'witches' were burnt at the stake. There is no doubt, therefore, that some of the ideas in the play would have been taken very seriously, such as the witches' prophecies, Macbeth being seemingly 'possessed' and his vivid hallucinations.</p> 	<p>Healthcare and Medicine – Healthcare and medicine were not as advanced in Shakespeare's age as they are today – there were numerous ailments and diseases that were not yet understood. Furthermore, there were a many wars in which scores of men were killed. Therefore, death was a much more frequent thought for people at the time. The high death count in the play would therefore seem slightly more ordinary.</p> 

Main Characters – Consider what Shakespeare intended through his characterisation of each of the below...

<p>Macbeth – Macbeth is the lead protagonist of the play. He is introduced as a Scottish general who is thought to be a brave and strong soldier. However, he is easily persuaded to commit the murder of a king that he loves. He becomes a tyrannical and destructive king, who responds to all threats (including his own insecurity) through violence and murder.</p>	<p>Lady Macbeth – Macbeth's wife, an extremely ambitious woman who <u>lives for power</u>. At the beginning of the play, she seems stronger than Macbeth, urging and aiding him to kill Duncan. Later in the play, however, she becomes racked with guilt and madness, proving unable to come to terms with what they have done. Her conscience affects her to such a degree that she eventually commits suicide.</p>
<p>Duncan – Duncan is the kind and loved King of Scotland who Macbeth murders in order to fulfil his ambition and the witches' prophecy. Duncan is a virtuous king, who is both compassionate and rational – he forms a stark contrast with Macbeth as king. When Duncan dies, order in Scotland is shattered. It is only restored when his son, Malcolm eventually takes the throne.</p>	<p>Macduff – A Scottish nobleman who is <u>dubious and hostile</u> towards Macbeth's reign from the beginning. His wife and young son are murdered by Macbeth. Macduff leads the battle against Macbeth's tyrannical reign, eventually becoming the man who <u>kills Macbeth</u> (in line with the witch's prophecy as he was not of 'woman born'). In doing so, he helps Malcolm to the throne.</p>
<p>The Three Witches – The witches represent <u>trickery, manipulation</u> and the <u>supernatural</u>. They use charms, spells and prophecies to prompt Macbeth into murdering Duncan. There is some ambivalence over how much of their <u>power</u> comes from supernatural abilities, as opposed to knowing the weaknesses of their victim. In any case, they take pleasure in toying with human lives and emotions.</p>	<p>Banquo – Banquo is a <u>brave and noble</u> gentleman who is a friend and fellow soldier to Macbeth. Banquo is also given prophecies by the witches, but unlike Macbeth, he chooses not to act on them. After being murdered, Banquo's <u>ghost</u> returns to haunt Macbeth, causing him a great deal of fright, and reminding him of the path he chose not to take. In accordance with the witches' prophecies, <u>Banquo's descendants</u> later take their place on the throne.</p>

Themes – A theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.

<p>Unchecked Ambition – The tale of Macbeth ruthlessly exposes the dangers of ambition when it is not held by moral constraints. Ambition turns Macbeth from a brave and loyal Scottish general into a murderous tyrant. Lady Macbeth is another example of this theme, as she is unable to deal with the acts that she and Macbeth have committed to fuel their ambition, and so commits suicide.</p> 
<p>Fate vs Free Will – Throughout the play, the audience is frequently forced to question the notion of fate vs free will – does the story pan out the way that it does because it was pre-ordained, or because of the actions that Macbeth chose to take? Macbeth fervently attempts to fight the negative aspects of his fate, and yet it is these very actions (his free will) that cause the predetermined downfall (fate).</p>
<p>Gender, Masculinity and Femininity – Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband by questioning his masculinity, as he originally declines to murder King Duncan for the throne. She states that she wishes she could be 'unsexed' so as to give her bravery to commit the deed. Masculinity is frequently associated with raw aggression, and femininity with weakness and kindness.</p> 
<p>Inversion of the Natural Order – Whenever the natural order is disturbed in Macbeth (the three supernatural witches, the murder of a king) disorder and chaos soon follow. There is only peace when the natural order is restored (Malcolm is seated on the throne). In line with the beliefs of King James, through Macbeth Shakespeare expresses that the <u>inversion of the natural order is dangerous and destructive</u>.</p>

Scene-by-Scene Summary – Take note of the key quotations from each scene.

Act	Scene	Summary	Key Quotations
Act 1	Scene 1	Three witches meet on a heath. They plot to trick Macbeth at a later time.	<i>Fair is foul and foul is fair; Hover through the fog and filthy air.</i>
Act 1	Scene 2	King Duncan is told of Macbeth's bravery in battle. He tells a messenger to award him Thane of Cawdor.	<i>No more that Thane of Cawdor shall deceive... ...And with his former title greet Macbeth.</i>
Act 1	Scene 3	The witches confront Macbeth and Banquo and deliver their prophecies. The messenger arrives to tell Macbeth that he is the Thane of Cawdor.	<i>All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, Thane of Glamis! All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor! All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be King hereafter!</i>
Act 1	Scene 4	At the King's Palace, Duncan names Malcolm (his eldest son) as his successor.	<i>The Prince of Cumberland that is a step On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap.</i>
Act 1	Scene 5	At Macbeth's castle, Lady Macbeth receives a letter from Macbeth detailing the witches' prophecies. She plans Duncan's murder, but fears that Macbeth is too kind to fulfil his ambition.	<i>You spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full / Of direst cruelty.</i>
Act 1	Scene 6	Duncan arrives at Macbeth's castle. He professes his love for Macbeth as a dear friend.	<i>Conduct me to mine host, we love him highly, And shall continue our eyes towards him.</i>
Act 1	Scene 7	Macbeth has doubts about the assassination. Lady Macbeth tells him of the plot and he then agrees to it.	<i>If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well It were done quickly...</i>
Act 2	Scene 1	Banquo and Fleance arrive. When they depart to bed, Macbeth sees a vision of a dagger leading him towards Duncan's chamber.	<i>Is this a dagger which I see before me, The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.</i>
Act 2	Scene 2	Macbeth emerges from the chamber, visibly shaken. He has forgotten to place the daggers with the chamberlains to absolve the blame. Lady Macbeth must return them.	<i>With all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood Clean from my hand?</i>
Act 2	Scene 3	Macduff arrives and finds Duncan dead. Macbeth explains that he killed the chamberlains in rage. Duncan's sons flee.	<i>Sleep no more, / Macbeth does murder sleep</i>
Act 2	Scene 4	Macduff tells Ross, a thane, that Macbeth has been named King.	<i>O horror, horror, horror! Tongue nor heart Cannot conceive nor name thee!</i>
Act 3	Scene 1	Macbeth, fearing the witches' prophecies about Banquo's descendants sitting on the throne, arranges to have Banquo and Fleance killed.	<i>The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.</i>
Act 3	Scene 2-3	Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth of his plan to kill Banquo. Elsewhere, the murderers kill Banquo, but Fleance escapes.	<i>It is concluded, Banquo, thy soul's flight, If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.</i>
Act 3	Scene 4	Macbeth holds a banquet. He sees the ghost of Banquo and becomes hysterical. The guests are eventually asked to leave by Lady Macbeth.	<i>O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly! Thou must revenge, O slave!</i>
Act 3	Scene 5-6	The witches are scolded by Macbeth for their meddling. Elsewhere, Lennox tells of Macduff gathering an army to fight Macbeth.	<i>I pray you, speak not, he grows worse and worse, Question enrages him. At once, good night.</i>
Act 4	Scene 1	Macbeth again visits the witches, and through terrible apparitions is given several new prophecies regarding his fate. The witches then vanish.	<i>May soon return to this our suffering country Under a hard accursed!</i>
Act 4	Scene 2-3	Macduff's wife and children are murdered by Macbeth's assassins. Macduff and Malcolm write in order to fight Macbeth.	<i>Beware Macduff, - none of woman born shall harm Macbeth. - Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinone Hill Shall come against him.</i>
Act 5	Scene 1	A doctor and gentlewoman watch Lady Macbeth sleepwalk. She talks of the murder of Banquo and Macbeth, and imagines stubborn blood on her hands.	<i>Macbeth's ripe for shaking, and the powers above Put on their instruments.</i>
Act 5	Scene 2	Lord Alva tells how the rebel army will gather at Birnam Wood.	<i>Out, damned spot, out, I say! ... Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?</i>
Act 5	Scene 3-4	Inside, Macbeth boasts that none of woman born can harm him. Macduff and co gather at Birnam Wood.	<i>Make us our march towards Birnam.</i>
Act 5	Scene 5	A scream is heard at Macbeth's castle. It is announced that Lady Macbeth is dead (suicide). Macbeth reacts numbly. A messenger reveals that the trees of Birnam Wood are advancing.	<i>I will not be afraid of death and bone, Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinone.</i>
Act 5	Scene 6-7	The battle begins. Macbeth fights without fear, as he believes no man born of woman can harm him. The castle is breached.	<i>Life is 'tis to tale / Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing!</i>
Act 5	Scene 8	Macbeth and Macduff finally meet. Macduff reveals that he was born by caesarian section (not 'by woman born'). He kills Macbeth. Malcolm is proclaimed King.	<i>But sword I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn, Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born.</i>

Dramatic Devices in Macbeth

Dramatic Device	Example	Features of a Tragedy in Macbeth
Dramatic Irony	It is a peerless kinsman. Duncan trusts Macbeth. The audience knows that Macbeth is plotting Duncan's murder.	Tragic Hero – A main character cursed by fate and possessed of a tragic flaw (Macbeth).
Soliloquy	This supernatural soliloquy cannot be ill, cannot be good. Macbeth's soliloquy reveals his inner torment.	Hamartia – The fatal character flaw of the tragic hero (ambition).
Aside	The Prince of Cumberland, that is a step that I must fall down, or else o'erleap. Macbeth reveals his ambition through an aside.	Catharsis – The release of the audience's emotions through empathy with the characters.
Rhyming Couplets	Away and made the time, with faint show / False face must hide what the heart doth know.	Internal Conflict – The struggle the hero engages in with his/her fatal flaw.

Macbeth and Narrative Writing

WHY?:

Being able to plan, organise and articulate your own narrative is a skill that will not only benefit you for your exams in summer; these skills could help build towards careers in sectors such as journalism, novel/playwriting, film production and editing and many

Key questions to consider...

Am I using the best vocabulary I can use?

Am I varying my use of punctuation?

Am I using a variety of language features?

Is my writing detailed and engaging?

Am I **showing** rather than **telling**?

Character/Narrator Types

Protagonist/antagonist— Leading character or major character/opposing force. Usually brings conflict to main character.

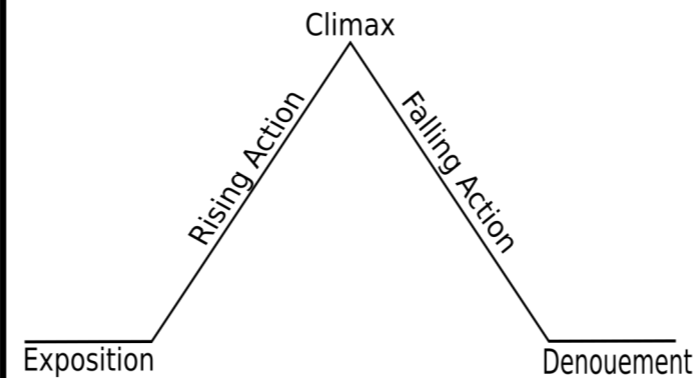
Foil— a character who contrasts another character.

Omniscient Narrator— knows everything about all the characters.

Unreliable narrator—a narrator who has had their credibility compromised.



Freytag's Pyramid



Styles of Opening

- **The rhetorical start**—starting your piece with a single, or series of, rhetorical question(s).
- **The statement start**—starting your piece with a strong topic statement that will grab the readers' attention.
- **The hypothetical start**—putting your reader in a “what would you do?” scenario
- **The flashback start**—starting your piece by going to a place/event in the past.

Key Vocabulary

heinous, mercurial, foreshadowing, barbarous, caliginous, culpability, reticent, tension, climactic, malice.

Language Devices

- **Extended Metaphor**— a metaphor that is introduced and further developed throughout a piece of writing.
- **Sensory description**— describes objects in a manner that can be experienced through the senses.
- **Foreshadowing**— a warning, or indication, of a future event.
- **IMAGERY**—visually descriptive or figurative language.
- **PERSONIFICATION**— attributing a human behaviour to something non-human.
- **OXYMORON**—to have two contradictory terms next to each other.
- **HYPERBOLE**—immense exaggeration.



The Big Question: *Is my writing compelling? Does it incorporate a range of complex ideas?*

Language Paper 2 Knowledge Organiser

AO1-AO6	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3	QUESTION 4	QUESTION 5
<p>AO 1: What (do you understand what the text is saying?)</p> <p>AO2: How (do you understand how the text is communicating its message?)</p> <p>AO3: Why (why is the text as it is? Why did the writer choose for it to be that way?)</p> <p>AO5: Structure and Content</p> <p>AO6: SPaG</p>	<p>4 marks, AO1</p> <p>5minutes</p> <p>Examiner is looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the text • Ability to interpret and identify implicit and explicit meanings. 	<p>8 marks, AO1</p> <p>10 minutes</p> <p>2/3 points</p> <p>Examiner is looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the text- including inferred meaning • Use of detailed evidence from the text • Comparison of the content of the texts 	<p>12 Marks, AO2</p> <p>15minutes</p> <p>3/4 points</p> <p>Examiner is looking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the writer's choice of language and its intended impact • Use of relevant evidence from the text • Use of appropriate terminology • Single word analysis (zoom) 	<p>16 marks AO3</p> <p>20minutes</p> <p>2.5 sides of writing</p> <p>Examiner is looking for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding of the author's attitudes • Description of the author's methods (language and structure) • Sophisticated comparison • Use of appropriate terminology 	<p>40 Marks</p> <p>24 Marks Content and Organisation</p> <p>16 marks SPaG</p> <p>55 minutes</p> <p>2.5-3 sides of writing (about 6 paragraphs)</p> <p>Examiner is looking for</p> <p>Ao5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate spelling punctuation and grammar • Use of a range of punctuation • Use of a range of sentence structures • Paragraphs joined with connectives indicating a flow of argument • Ambitious vocabulary • Use of literary device
<p>Vocabulary Bank:</p> <p>Imagery</p> <p>Semantic field</p> <p>Contemptuous</p> <p>Inference</p> <p>Synthesise</p> <p>Perspective</p> <p>Tone</p> <p>Accusatory</p> <p>Diplomatic</p> <p>Impartial</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>Subjective</p> <p>Pessimistic</p>	<p>Contrasting Connectives (Q2 & 4):</p> <p>Similarities:</p> <p>Equally</p> <p>likewise</p> <p>similarly</p> <p>as with</p> <p>like</p> <p>in the same way</p> <p>To contrast</p> <p>whereas</p> <p>instead of</p> <p>alternatively</p> <p>otherwise</p> <p>unlike</p> <p>but</p> <p>on the other hand</p> <p>by contrast</p>		<p>Language Devices (Q3):</p> <p>Simile – Comparison of one thing with another thing using the words 'like' or 'as'.</p> <p>Metaphor – A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.</p> <p>Personification – The attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form.</p> <p>Anaphora – The repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses.</p> <p>Epiphora - The repetition of a word or phrase at the end of successive clauses.</p> <p>Hyperbole – Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.</p>		<p>Non-fiction Devices (Q4 & 5):</p> <p>Anecdote – a short, amusing or interesting story about a real person/ incident</p> <p>Cyclical structure – the events at the end are similar to those at the start.</p> <p>Emotive description – description that appeals to, or expresses, emotion.</p> <p>Exaggeration/hyperbole – exaggerated statements not meant to be taken literally.</p> <p>Listing – giving more than one example.</p> <p>Triplets – describing something using three descriptive terms.</p> <p>Direct address – Talking to the reader directly.</p> <p>Repetition – repeating something that has already been said for emphasis.</p> <p>Statistics – a fact or piece of data involving numbers.</p>