

Key Terminology - Shakespeare's methods		Characters		MACBETH	
Language (words and techniques)		Macbeth	Protagonist, ambitious and ruthless	Literature paper 1 Section A: 30 + 4 marks ~ 50 minutes AO1 (response, references) AO2 (methods, subject terminology) AO3 (context) AO4 (SPaG)	
Light and dark imagery	Illustrates battle between good and evil and Macbeth's corruption	Lady Macbeth	Defies expectations, strong and ambitious, but goes mad		
Blood motif - repeated symbol	Reflects Macbeth's guilt	Witches	Supernatural beings, make prophecies could represent conscience		
Symbolism	References to disrupted nature show the repercussions of Macbeth's actions	Banquo	Macbeth's friend, son's prophesied to rule, killed and returns as ghost	Act 1	Macbeth and Banquo meet witches, Cawdor executed, Lady M reads letter, taunts Macbeth, Duncan arrives.
Structure (order of ideas)		Duncan	Good king, praises M at start, murdered in Act 2	Act 2	Macbeth kills Duncan, Malcolm flees, Macbeth crowned King.
Rhyming couplets - two lines which rhyme	Reflect the supernatural (incantations/spells) and link Macbeth to the witches	Macduff	Wife and children killed, kills Macbeth, born by caesarean	Act 3	Macbeth murders Banquo, Fleance escapes, Macbeth haunted by Banquo's ghost.
Order of ideas	Look for how ideas develop in the extract or turning points	Malcolm	Heir to throne, finally crowned	Act 4	Witches make more prophecies, Macduff's family murdered, Malcolm says he is dishonest to test Macduff's loyalty.
Foil - a character used for contrast	Loyal Banquo is a foil to disloyal Macbeth	Fleance	Banquo's son, represents innocence	Act 5	Lady Macbeth sleepwalks and dies, Macduff kills Macbeth, Malcolm restored as King.
Form (type of text)		Key Context		Key Themes and Top Ten Quotes	
Soliloquy - one character speaking their thoughts and feelings aloud	Reveals thoughts of characters; Macbeth makes audience complicit in his crimes	Following the failed gunpowder plot , Macbeth can be read as a cautionary tale for anyone considering attempting to overthrow the king . The 'Weird Sisters' would have appealed to King James's fascination with the supernatural – he believed that witches were emblems of darkness and conflict.		Appearance vs reality	The witches: "Fair is foul and foul is fair"
Dramatic Irony - Audience knows something the characters don't	Creates tension – audience know Duncan will die			Lady Macbeth negates her own femininity , directly subverting social expectations of women at the time, who were expected to be nurturing and caring.	Violence
Hamartia - a tragic flaw within a character	Macbeth's own 'vaulting ambition' causes his downfall	By killing Duncan, Macbeth is defying the 'Divine right of Kings' , i.e. interfering with God's will as Jacobians believed that God chose the King. Shakespeare shows the repercussions of breaking the 'Great Chain of Being' (hierarchical order of the world, with God at the top) through negative consequences on Scotland and Macbeth after he commits regicide .		Supernatural	Macbeth about the witches: "This supernatural soliciting/ Cannot be good, cannot be ill"
Blank verse – unrhymed iambic pentameter (10 or 11 syllables per line)	Shows high status of the characters			Deception	Macbeth: "let not light see my black and deep desires"
Prose – ordinary speech with no pattern	Lady Macbeth uses this when she sleepwalks – implies she has lost control			Ambition	Macbeth: "I have no spur... but only/vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself"
				Femininity/Masculinity	Lady Macbeth: "Come you spirits... unsex me here"
				Guilt	Lady Macbeth: "look like th'innocent flower/but be the serpent under't"
				Evil	Macbeth: 'Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood/Clean from my hand?'
				Regret	Macbeth: "Oh, Full of scorpions is my mind dear wife"
					Macbeth: "Life's but... a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,/Signifying nothing"