

Macbeth: Essential Extract Revision

For each of the following extracts you need to establish the following. You can, of course, also practise writing them out completely if you wish.

1. What is the key word, or words in the question that tells you what the focus of your annotations and analysis should be?
2. What part of the story is told in the extract? Remember although this is an extract of a wider play it will have been chosen because it has a distinct narrative or dramatic arc that will be relevant to the question.
3. What has happened earlier to instigate the events in the extract? What will happen as a result of the events in the extract? Answering these questions will help you position the extract in terms of chronology and give you ideas about relevant parts of the wider play.
4. Pick two moments in the extract that easily exemplify the focus of the question. Adapt these so they form topic sentences which include reference to the focus of the question and its significance within the extract. Be sure to reference dramatic method in close detail and to quote regularly from the extract.
5. Pick two moments in the wider play that easily exemplify the focus of the second bullet point. Adapt these so they form topic sentences which include reference to the focus of the question. You do not need to have exact quotations for this section – references to key moments is perfectly acceptable.

My top tips: do not waste time looking at little words and imagining what they might mean in other contexts or your writing will become remote. Remember this is a drama; will the audience really be affected more by one word than an extended piece of action? Think laterally and ensure that you make two points that are tightly pinned down in events and details from within the extract before you move onto the second bullet.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the witches are meeting to discuss their plans.

A desert place.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches

First Witch

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Second Witch

When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

Third Witch

That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath.

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth.

First Witch

I come, Graymalkin!

Second Witch

Paddock calls.

Third Witch

Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents the supernatural in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the supernatural in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents the supernatural in the play as a whole.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the captain is telling Malcom and Duncan about Macbeth's role in the battle.

CAPTAIN

Doubtful it stood;
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald--
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon him--from the western isles
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:
For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like valour's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave;
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character. Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this extract
- how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character in the play as a whole

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 3 of Macbeth and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, after receiving The Witches' prophecies, Macbeth and Banquo have just been told that Duncan has made Macbeth Thane of Cawdor.

BANQUO

But 'tis strange,
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness tell us truths;
Win us with honest trifles, to betray's
In deepest consequence. –
Cousins, a word, I pray you.

MACBETH [Aside]

Two truths are told,
As happy prologues to the swelling act
Of the imperial theme. – I thank you, gentlemen. –
This supernatural soliciting
Cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill,
Why hath it given me earnest of success,
Commencing in a truth? I am Thane of Cawdor.
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion,
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs
Against the use of nature? Present fears
Are less than horrible imaginings.
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man that function
Is smothered in surmise, and nothing is,
But what is not.

Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of Macbeth and Banquo towards the supernatural.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of Macbeth and Banquo towards the supernatural in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of Macbeth and Banquo towards the supernatural in the play as a whole.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Lady Macbeth is instructing Macbeth how to behave as they plan to kill the king.

Enter MACBETH

Great Glamis! worthy Cawdor!
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!
Thy letters have transported me beyond
This ignorant present, and I feel now
The future in the instant.

MACBETH

My dearest love,
Duncan comes here to-night.

LADY MACBETH

And when goes hence?

MACBETH

To-morrow, as he purposes.

LADY MACBETH

O, never
Shall sun that morrow see!
Your face, my thane, is as a book where men
May read strange matters. To beguile the time,
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,
But be the serpent under't. He that's coming
Must be provided for: and you shall put
This night's great business into my dispatch;
Which shall to all our nights and days to come
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

MACBETH

We will speak further.

LADY MACBETH

Only look up clear;
To alter favour ever is to fear:
Leave all the rest to me.

Starting with this conversation explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents their relationship in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents their relationship in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Lady Macbeth has received a letter from Macbeth explaining the witches' prophecy that he will be king.

LADY MACBETH

The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,
And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty! Make thick my blood;
Stop up the access and passage to remorse,
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,
Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunkest smoke of hell,
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,
To cry 'Hold, hold!'

Starting with this speech explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 7 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth is debating whether or not to kill the king.

MACBETH

If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly: if the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch
With his surcease success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases
We still have judgment here; that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return
To plague the inventor: this even-handed justice
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust;
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door,
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking-off;
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim, horsed
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself
And falls on the other.

'Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a character who is terrified of the consequences of his actions.'

Starting with this extract, explore how far you agree with this opinion.

Write about:

- how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as terrified in this extract.
- how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as terrified in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 7 of Macbeth and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are arguing over whether or not they should kill Duncan.

LADY MACBETH

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' the adage?

MACBETH

Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.

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:
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dash'd 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.

Starting with this moment, explore how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth's power over Macbeth.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents her power over him at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents her power over him in the play as a whole.

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth is waiting for the summons of Lady Macbeth before killing Duncan.

MACBETH

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes.

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an unstable character in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as unstable in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as unstable in the wider play

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macbeth has murdered Duncan and returned to Lady Macbeth.

MACBETH

Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine eyes.
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas in incarnadine,
Making the green one red.

Re-enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

My hands are of your colour; but I shame
To wear a heart so white.
Knocking within
I hear a knocking
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;
A little water clears us of this deed:
How easy is it, then! Your constancy
Hath left you unattended.

Knocking within

Hark! more knocking.
Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us,
And show us to be watchers. Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

MACBETH

To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

Knocking within

Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

Exeunt

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents guilt in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents guilt in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents guilt in the wider play

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Macduff has discovered Duncan's murdered body.

MACDUFF

O horror, horror, horror! Tongue nor heart
Cannot conceive nor name thee!

MACBETH LENNOX

What's the matter.

MACDUFF

Confusion now hath made his masterpiece!
Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope
The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence
The life o' the building!

MACBETH

What is 't you say? the life?

LENNOX

Mean you his majesty?

MACDUFF

Approach the chamber, and destroy your sight
With a new Gorgon: do not bid me speak;
See, and then speak yourselves.

Exeunt MACBETH and LENNOX

Awake, awake!
Ring the alarum-bell. Murder and treason!
Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!
Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,
And look on death itself! up, up, and see
The great doom's image! Malcolm! Banquo!
As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprites,
To countenance this horror! Ring the bell.

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents Macduff as a loyal character in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macduff's loyalty in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macduff's loyalty in the wider play

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Ross and an Old Man are talking about the events of the night following Duncan's murder.

Enter ROSS and an old Man

Old Man

Threescore and ten I can remember well:
Within the volume of which time I have seen
Hours dreadful and things strange; but this sore night
Hath trifled former knowings.

ROSS

Ah, good father,
Thou seest, the heavens, as troubled with man's act,
Threaten his bloody stage: by the clock, 'tis day,
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp:
Is't night's predominance, or the day's shame,
That darkness does the face of earth entomb,
When living light should kiss it?

Old Man

'Tis unnatural,
Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last,
A falcon, towering in her pride of place,
Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at and kill'd.

ROSS

And Duncan's horses--a thing most strange and certain--
Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race,
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,
Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would make
War with mankind.

Old Man

'Tis said they eat each other.

ROSS

They did so, to the amazement of mine eyes
That look'd upon't. Here comes the good Macduff.

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents chaos in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents chaos in the extract
- how Shakespeare presents chaos in the wider play

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth is concerned about the damage Banquo could do to his role as king.

MACBETH

To be thus is nothing;
But to be safely thus.--Our fears in Banquo
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature
Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'tis much he dares;
And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour
To act in safety. There is none but he
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,
My Genius is rebuked; as, it is said,
Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters
When first they put the name of king upon me,
And bade them speak to him: then prophet-like
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel
Given to the common enemy of man,
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!
Rather than so, come fate into the list.
And champion me to the utterance! Who's there!

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's fears.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's fears in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's fears in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are drifting further apart with neither of them telling the other how they are truly feeling.

MACBETH

So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you:
Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;
Present him eminence, both with eye and tongue:
Unsafe the while, that we
Must lave our honours in these flattering streams,
And make our faces vizards to our hearts,
Disguising what they are.

LADY MACBETH

You must leave this.

MACBETH

O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!
Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.

LADY MACBETH

But in them nature's copy's not eterne.

MACBETH

There's comfort yet; they are assailable;
Then be thou jocund: ere the bat hath flown
His cloister'd flight, ere to black Hecate's summons
The shard-borne beetle with his drowsy hums
Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be done
A deed of dreadful note.

LADY MACBETH

What's to be done?

MACBETH

Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,
Till thou applaud the deed.

‘The Macbeths’ relationship negatively changes during the play.’

Starting with this moment in the play, explore how far you agree with this view.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the Macbeths’ relationship in this extract
- how far Shakespeare presents their relationship as changing in the play as a whole.

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 4 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost at the feast for the first time.

MACBETH

Thou canst not say I did it: never shake
Thy gory locks at me.

ROSS

Gentlemen, rise: his highness is not well.

LADY MACBETH

Sit, worthy friends: my lord is often thus,
And hath been from his youth: pray you, keep seat;
The fit is momentary; upon a thought
He will again be well: if much you note him,
You shall offend him and extend his passion:
Feed, and regard him not. Are you a man?

MACBETH

Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that
Which might appal the devil.

LADY MACBETH

O proper stuff!
This is the very painting of your fear:
This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts,
Impostors to true fear, would well become
A woman's story at a winter's fire,
Authorized by her grandam. Shame itself!
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a stool.

MACBETH

Prithee, see there! behold! look! lo!
how say you?
Why, what care I? If thou canst nod, speak too.
If charnel-houses and our graves must send
Those that we bury back, our monuments
Shall be the maws of kites.

GHOST OF BANQUO vanishes

'Macbeth is a character who loses his grip on reality as the play progresses.'

Starting with this moment explore how far you agree with this statement.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's mindset in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth's mindset in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract Macbeth has revisited the witches and is about to hear from the apparitions.

Enter MACBETH

MACBETH

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags!
What is't you do?

ALL

A deed without a name.

MACBETH

I conjure you, by that which you profess,
Howe'er you come to know it, answer me:
Though you untie the winds and let them fight
Against the churches; though the yesty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up;
Though bladed corn be lodged and trees blown down;
Though castles topple on their warders' heads;
Though palaces and pyramids do slope
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure
Of nature's germens tumble all together,
Even till destruction sicken; answer me
To what I ask you.

First Witch

Speak.

Second Witch

Demand.

Third Witch

We'll answer.

First Witch

Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths,
Or from our masters?

MACBETH

Call 'em; let me see 'em.

First Witch

Pour in sow's blood, that hath eaten
Her nine farrow; grease that's sweaten
From the murderer's gibbet throw
Into the flame.

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents the supernatural in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the supernatural in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the supernatural in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point Lady Macduff has been warned men are approaching the castle and she is alone and undefended.

LADY MACDUFF

Whither should I fly?

I have done no harm. But I remember now
I am in this earthly world; where to do harm
Is often laudable, to do good sometime
Accounted dangerous folly: why then, alas,
Do I put up that womanly defence,
To say I have done no harm?

Enter Murderers

What are these faces?

First Murderer

Where is your husband?

LADY MACDUFF

I hope, in no place so unsanctified
Where such as thou mayst find him.

First Murderer

He's a traitor.

Son

Thou liest, thou shag-hair'd villain!

First Murderer

What, you egg!

Stabbing him

Young fry of treachery!

Son

He has kill'd me, mother:
Run away, I pray you!

Dies

Exit LADY MACDUFF, crying 'Murder!' Exeunt Murderers, following her

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents violence and its consequences in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents violence in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents violence and its consequences in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point Macduff has discovered that Macbeth has ordered his whole family murdered.

MACDUFF

He has no children. All my pretty ones?
Did you say all? O hell-kite! All?
What, all my pretty chickens and their dam
At one fell swoop?

MALCOLM

Dispute it like a man.

MACDUFF

I shall do so;
But I must also feel it as a man:
I cannot but remember such things were,
That were most precious to me. Did heaven look on,
And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff,
They were all struck for thee! naught that I am,
Not for their own demerits, but for mine,
Fell slaughter on their souls. Heaven rest them now!

MALCOLM

Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief
Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it.

MACDUFF

O, I could play the woman with mine eyes
And braggart with my tongue!

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents masculinity in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents masculinity in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents masculinity in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract Lady Macbeth is sleepwalking, observed by a doctor and a gentlewoman.

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.

Doctor

Do you mark that?

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.

LADY MACBETH

Here's the smell of the blood still: all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. Oh, oh, oh!

Starting with this moment explore how Shakespeare presents madness in *Macbeth*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents madness in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents madness in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 5 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract Macbeth has just learned of the death of Lady Macbeth.

MACBETH

She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word.
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time,
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

How far do you agree that in *Macbeth*, Shakespeare presents life as ultimately meaningless?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the meaningless of life in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents this idea in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 8 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract Macbeth and Macduff have their climatic showdown.

MACDUFF

Despair thy charm;
And let the angel whom thou still hast served
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripp'd.

MACBETH

Accurs'd be that tongue that tells me so,
For it hath cow'd my better part of man!
And be these juggling fiends no more believed,
That palter with us in a double sense;
That keep the word of promise to our ear,
And break it to our hope. I'll not fight with thee.

MACDUFF

Then yield thee, coward,
And live to be the show and gaze o' the time:
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted on a pole, and underwrit,
'Here may you see the tyrant.'

MACBETH

I will not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,
And to be baited with the rabble's curse.
Though Birnam wood be come to Dunsinane,
And thou opposed, being of no woman born,
Yet I will try the last. Before my body
I throw my warlike shield. Lay on, Macduff,
And damn'd be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!'
Exeunt, fighting. Alarums

Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents male violence in *Macbeth*

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the male violence in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents male violence in the wider play.

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 9 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract Macduff reveals Macbeth's dead and Malcolm is hailed as King.

Re-enter MACDUFF, with MACBETH's head

MACDUFF

Hail, king! for so thou art: behold, where stands
The usurper's cursed head: the time is free:
I see thee compass'd with thy kingdom's pearl,
That speak my salutation in their minds;
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine:
Hail, King of Scotland!

ALL

Hail, King of Scotland!

Flourish

MALCOLM

We shall not spend a large expense of time
Before we reckon with your several loves,
And make us even with you. My thanes and kinsmen,
Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland
In such an honour named. What's more to do,
Which would be planted newly with the time,
As calling home our exiled friends abroad
That fled the snares of watchful tyranny;
Producing forth the cruel ministers
Of this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen,
Who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands
Took off her life; this, and what needful else
That calls upon us, by the grace of Grace,
We will perform in measure, time and place:
So, thanks to all at once and to each one,
Whom we invite to see us crown'd at Scone.

Flourish. Exeunt

'*Macbeth* is a play about good and bad rulers'

Starting with this moment to what extent would you agree with this statement.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents leaders in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents leaders in the wider play.