English test

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 have studied on the cover of your answer booklet.

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

You have 45 minutes to complete this task.
Macbeth

Act 2 Scene 2, lines 8 to 66
Act 5 Scene 5, line 1 to the end

In the first extract, Macbeth is affected by the death of Duncan, and in the second, by the death of Lady Macbeth. In both, he realises that he is in danger.

**Explain how Macbeth reacts to death and to danger in these extracts.**

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

18 marks
Macbeth

Act 2 Scene 2, lines 8 to 66

In this extract, Macbeth has killed King Duncan and he tells Lady Macbeth his fears.

MACBETH Who’s there? What ho?

LADY MACBETH Alack, I am afraid they have awaked,
And 'tis not done; th’attempt and not the deed
Confounds us – hark – I laid their daggers ready,
He could not miss ’em. Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done’t. My husband?

MACBETH I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

LADY MACBETH I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.
Did not you speak?

MACBETH When?

LADY MACBETH Now.

MACBETH As I descended?

LADY MACBETH Ay.

MACBETH Hark, who lies i’th’second chamber?

LADY MACBETH Donaldbain.

MACBETH This is a sorry sight.

LADY MACBETH A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

MACBETH There’s one did laugh in’s sleep, and one cried,
‘Murder’,
That they did wake each other; I stood, and heard them,
But they did say their prayers and addressed them
Again to sleep.

LADY MACBETH There are two lodged together.

MACBETH One cried ‘God bless us!’ and ‘Amen’ the other,
As they had seen me with these hangman’s hands.  
List’ning their fear, I could not say ‘Amen’  
When they did say ‘God bless us.’  

LADY MACBETH Consider it not so deeply.

MACBETH But wherefore could not I pronounce ‘Amen’?  
I had most need of blessing and ‘Amen’  
Stuck in my throat.

LADY MACBETH These deeds must not be thought  
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

MACBETH Methought I heard a voice cry, ‘Sleep no more:  
Macbeth does murder sleep’, the innocent sleep,  
Sleep that knits up the ravelled sleeve of care,  
The death of each day’s life, sore labour’s bath,  
Balm of hurt minds, great nature’s second course,  
Chief nourisher in life’s feast.

LADY MACBETH What do you mean?

MACBETH Still it cried, ‘Sleep no more’ to all the house;  
‘Glamis hath murdered sleep’, and therefore Cawdor  
Shall sleep no more: Macbeth shall sleep no more.

LADY MACBETH Who was it, that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,  
You do unbend your noble strength to think  
So brain-sickly of things. Go get some water  
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.  
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?  
They must lie there. Go carry them and smear  
The sleepy grooms with blood.

MACBETH I’ll go no more.  
I am afraid to think what I have done;  
Look on’t again, I dare not.

LADY MACBETH Infirm of purpose!  
Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead  
Are but as pictures; ’tis the eye of childhood  
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,  
I’ll gild the faces of the grooms withal,  
For it must seem their guilt.

Exit
Knock within

MACBETH Whence is that knocking? 60
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 incarnadine,
Making the green one red.

Act 5 Scene 5, line 1 to the end

In this extract, Macbeth is determined to fight, and he is given the news that Lady Macbeth is dead.

Enter MACBETH, SEYTON, and soldiers, with drum and colours

MACBETH Hang out our banners on the outward walls;
The cry is still, ‘They come.’ Our castle’s strength
Will laugh a siege to scorn; here let them lie
Till famine and the ague eat them up.
Were they not forced with those that should be ours,
We might have met them dastard, beard to beard,
And beat them backward home.

A cry within of women

What is that noise?

SEYTON It is the cry of women, my good lord.

MACBETH I have almost forgot the taste of fears;
The time has been, my senses would have cooled
To hear a night-shriek and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir
As life were in’t. I have supped full with horrors;
Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts
Cannot once start me. Wherefore was that cry? 15

SEYTON The queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word.
Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time;

Turn over
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.

Enter a MESSENGER

Thou com’st to use thy tongue: thy story quickly.

MESSENGER Gracious my lord,
I should report that which I say I saw,
But know not how to do’t.

MACBETH Well, say, sir.

MESSENGER As I did stand my watch upon the hill
I looked toward Birnam and anon methought
The wood began to move.

MACBETH Liar and slave!

MESSENGER Let me endure your wrath if’t be not so;
Within this three mile may you see it coming.
I say, a moving grove.

MACBETH If thou speak’st false,
Upon the next tree shall thou hang alive
Till famine cling thee; if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much.
I pull in resolution and begin
To doubt th’equivocation of the fiend
That lies like truth. ‘Fear not, till Birnam Wood
Do come to Dunsinane’, and now a wood
Comes toward Dunsinane. Arm, arm, and out!
If this which he avouches does appear,
There is nor flying hence nor tarrying here.
I ’gin to be aweary of the sun
And wish th’estate o’th’world were now undone.
Ring the alarum bell! Blow wind, come wrack;
At least we’ll die with harness on our back.

Exeunt

END OF TEST