

GCSE English
5EH2H/01

Macbeth
Higher Tier

The purpose of this pack is to provide centres with the question paper, mark scheme and a set of exemplar materials with commentaries.

The individual documents can be found on our website at www.edexcel.com

Included in this pack:

- Question and extract from Summer 2012 Paper
- Marked scripts with the mark and band
- Examiner commentary and mark scheme

Question part (a)

(a) Explain how Shakespeare presents the character of Duncan in the extract.

Use **evidence** from the extract to support your answer.

(7)

Script 1 response to part a)

Band 3 – 7 marks

In the extract, Duncan is presented as a very loyal and honourable man. 'More is due than more than all company' This reveals that Duncan is a very humble character as he ~~opens~~ says he can not reward Macbeth enough. Even though this is humbled, it could also be seen as being weak and frail as being a humbled character means you can be easily deceived. This would reveal to the audience that something bad will happen to Duncan as he is too opening himself up and accepting everyone. The audience would be fearful that a loyal character may end up dead.

Valid supported points about character. Developed explanation. Perceptive.

Duncan is shown to be a very knowledgeable man "There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face" This reveals that Duncan is very good at reading people which would mean he is a very respected person and also not easily deceived. However, this line is prophetic as it reveals what may happen later on in the play but to the ~~more~~ audience, they would see this line as ironic as they know Macbeth is having ambitions as murdering Duncan yet Duncan don't know. This would be

Valid supported points about character, although 'respected' is not clear from the offered quotation. Developed explanation. Perceptive.

Further development of the points above

(Section A continued) prophetic to the reader as they would know that Duncan can be easily deceived as he can not read Macbeth's deep desires, even though they ~~with~~ Macbeth is not planning yet but will still leave the audience in suspense.

Duncan is shown to be a kind hearted man " Hold thee to my heart " This reveals that Duncan holds all his subjects very close to him and cares for them all which would make people respect him. The audience will have a natural affection to Duncan as he is kind hearted and would be ~~easy to~~ not want to see him go as he brings peace and tranquillity to the play which the audience would not want to see go.

Valid supported points about character. Perceptive.

Examiner summary:

This is a very full and perceptive response and more than meets the requirements for top marks for this question part. The candidate shows an awareness of the wider picture, and the audience response, whilst still remaining focused on the character in the extract. Duncan is 'loyal' and 'honourable'. He is 'humbled' because he owes much to his champions. However, he is 'easily deceived' and 'opening himself up'. He is shown to be 'knowledgeable' but the audience will see this as 'ironic' because Macbeth is 'having fantasies' of murder. Duncan is also 'kind hearted'.

Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:

3	6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptive understanding of the character. • Discriminating reference to the extract to support response.
---	-----	--

To achieve a higher mark:

This response has achieved maximum marks.

Question part (b)

(b) Using your understanding of the extract, explain how the following lines might be performed.

(7)

Duncan

Welcome hither!

**I have begun to plant thee, and will labour,
To make thee full of growing. – Noble Banquo,
That hast no less deserved, nor must be known
No less to have done so – let me enfold thee,
And hold thee to my heart.**

Banquo

There if I grow,

The harvest is your own.

Script 1 response to part b)

Band 3 – 7 marks

Valid reference to
tone of voice and
gestures, with
explanation

b) I would have Duncan say the line "Welcome Hither!" with a gentle yet authoritative tone. This would be appropriate as he is a very kind hearted character yet he is King. I would have him perform the lines with an open arm ~~and~~ body language to reveal that he is a very powerful yet respected and accepting man who greets all people.

I would have him say the lines "I have begun ... full of growing." in a subtle and generous tone. This would be appropriate as he is very grateful for what Banquo has done and wants the best for him.

Valid reference to
tone of voice and
with explanation

Valid reference to tone of voice and gestures and with explanation. Somewhat repetitive of the opening paragraph

The lines "Noble Banquo" would be said in a very authoritative ~~and~~ yet respectful tone. This would be appropriate as even though he is powerful, he is still humbling himself as he respects "Banquo" very highly for what he has done. I would have Duncan have an open armed body language towards Banquo to show his respect for him.

Valid reference to tone of voice and gestures and with explanation. Perceptive

The lines "That has no less ... to have done so" would be said in a confirming and reassuring tone. This would be appropriate as Duncan is reassuring Banquo that he is no less

(Section A continued) brave and honourable than Macbeth. I would have him say the lines with his hands on Banquo's shoulders to reveal that ~~what~~ Duncan is saying is from the heart.

Valid reference to tone of voice and gestures with explanation

The lines "Let me unfold thee ... to my heart" would be said in a soft and kind hearted tone. This would be appropriate as it reveals Duncan's affection and loving nature and how much he cares for Banquo. I would have Banquo and Duncan hug to reveal just how much Duncan cares for Banquo.

Valid reference to tone of voice and movement with explanation

I would have Banquo say his final line ~~is~~ "There is I grow ... your own" in a thankful and honourable tone. This would be appropriate to show how much Banquo is so thankful & towards Duncan's actions. I would have Banquo bow to show his respect and loyalty towards Duncan.

Examiner summary:

The candidate explains how Duncan would speak and gives reasons why; these explanations also refer to how these performance features demonstrate points about the characters as seen in the extract. The candidate's commitment to finding two adjectives for every tone of voice is sometimes less successful (a 'subtle and generous' tone is hard to imagine). 'Open armed body language' is apt, as are 'confirming and reassuring', 'hands on Banquo's shoulders' and Banquo shows 'respect and loyalty'. This is perceptive response easily securing maximum marks.

Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:

3	6-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perceptive understanding of effectiveness of performance techniques.• Discriminating reference to the lines from extract to support response.
---	-----	--

To achieve a higher mark:

This response has achieve maximum marks

Question part (c)

(c) In the extract, we are aware of Cawdor's betrayal.

Explore the significance of betrayal in **one other** part of the play.

(10)

Script 1 response to part c)

Identification of one other part

Band 3 – 10 marks

e) Betrayal is shown in Act 3 Scene 1 where Macbeth is planning Banquo's murder. Macbeth in this scene is very fearful of Banquo and is willing to betray his best friend. This reveals that Macbeth's fear causes him to betray people which would then cause him to push people away and become more dependent. As Macbeth has made the decision on his own, this would reveal his independence but also his selfish nature causing him to sever all ties with people so he will be lonely due to his betrayal of people.

Significance of the theme

Banquo could be seen to be betraying Macbeth as he is suspicious of Macbeth which could be seen as 'backstabbing' as he ~~then~~ 'does not trust his best friend'. This reveals

Further example of betrayal within the selected scene. Perceptive.

(Section A continued) That even the most honest characters in the play is not 100% truthful with everyone creating the impression that friendship is a facade.

Macbeth is betraying characters as he has 100% trust in the witches prophecies. As he is fearful of the prophecies, he results to murdering close ones to remove threats that stand in the way of SECURING his ambition. This reveals that Macbeth's character has become very paranoid due to his massive trust in the witches. His paranoia makes him suspicious of everyone causing him to push people away ~~except~~ except the witches. This is ironic as the only people he trusts in the play are the most malicious force in the play. Hence, Betrayal causes Macbeth to become very selfish and paranoid but still has trust in the witches.

Further development on the significance of the theme.

Further development on the significance of the theme.

Macbeth's betrayal of people is fueled purely by his ambition. He is trying to secure his place as king and betrays people for it. This reveals that Macbeth's driving force is his ambition and results to different methods including betrayal to achieve it and secure it. Due to his ambitious nature, he becomes very selfish and self-centred as all he cares about is his ambition which is to be SAFE as king.

So, Betrayal causes Macbeth to become selfish and he betrays people due to his fear and paranoia which are

(Section A continued) results of him wanting his ambition.

Examiner summary:

The candidate selects an appropriate other part of the play. The selected scene reveals Macbeth's 'fear', his 'independence' and his 'selfish nature'. The significance of betrayal is explored at some length and is related to Macbeth's 'paranoia' and 'ambition'. There is perceptive understanding of the significance of betrayal in the selected scene, noting that the betrayal of Banquo is indicative of how Macbeth 'will be lonely due to his betrayal of people' and how Macbeth may see Banquo's 'backstabbing' as a betrayal.

Band this answer achieves in the mark scheme:

3	8-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perceptive understanding of theme and its importance• Discriminating reference to one other part of the play to support response.
---	------	--

To achieve a higher mark:

This response has achieved maximum marks