# **PART ONE: INTRODUCTION**

# How to use these practice tests

This book contains seven GCSE English Literature exam-style practice tests for *Macbeth*. All the York Notes tests have been modelled on the ones that you will sit in your AQA GCSE 9–1 English Literature exam.

There are lots of ways these tests can support your study and revision for your AQA English Literature exam on *Macbeth*. There is no 'right' way – choose the one (or ones) that suits your learning style best.

# 0

### Alongside the York Notes Study Guide for Macbeth

Do you have the York Notes Study Guide for Macbeth?

These tests will allow you to try out all the skills and techniques outlined in the Study Guide. So you could:

- choose a question from this book
- read the sections of the Study Guide relevant to the question, i.e. Plot and Action;
   Characters; Themes, Contexts and Setting; Structure, Form and Language
- use the Progress Booster exam section of the Study Guide to remind yourself of key exam techniques
- complete the question.

# 2

## As a stand-alone revision programme

Do you know the text inside out and have you already mastered the skills needed for your exam?

If so, you can keep your skills fresh by answering one or two questions from this book each day or week in the lead-up to the exam. You could make a revision diary and allocate particular questions to particular times.

# 3

#### As a form of mock exam

Would you like to test yourself under exam conditions?

You could put aside part of a day to work on a practice test in a quiet room. Set a stopwatch so that you can experience what it will be like in your real exam. If some of your friends have copies of this book then several of you could all do this together and discuss your answers afterwards.

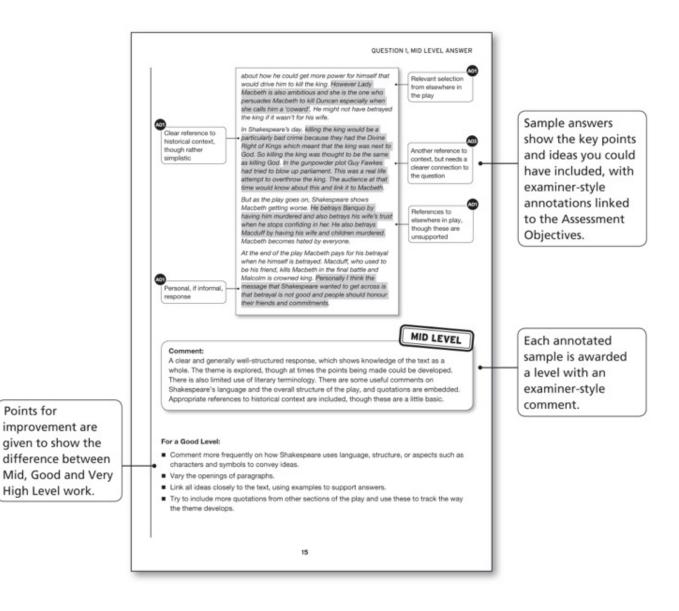
Or, you could try working through Part Two of this book slowly, question by question, over a number of days as part of your revision, and save the further questions in Part Three to use as a mock test nearer the exam.

## How to use the answer sections

This book contains a mixture of annotated sample answers and short (indicative content) answers that will help you to:

- identify the difference between Mid, Good and Very High Level work
- understand how the Assessment Objectives are applied
- grade your own answers by comparing them with the samples provided.

The answers can also give you additional ideas for your responses and help you to aim high.



could be expanded

Links to the wider

Repetition of 'good'

openings could be

Shakespeare writes, we quote him

Paragraphs

more varied

Inaccurate -

text

A04

A01

#### PART TWO: YORK NOTES PRACTICE TESTS WITH ANNOTATED SAMPLE ANSWERS Annotated sample answers Now, read the three sample answers that follow and, based on what you have read, try to allocate a level to your own work. Which of the three responses is your answer closest to? Don't be discouraged if your work doesn't seem as strong as some of the responses here - the point is to use these samples to learn about what is needed and then put it into practice in your own work. Conversely, you may have mentioned relevant ideas or points that don't appear in these responses; if this is the case, give yourself a pat on the back - it shows you are considering lots of good ideas. Sample answer A Shakespeare presents the theme of betrayal in this Uses terminology, Uses words from speech from Act I Scene 7 by showing Macbeth but does not the question but speaking about the king and explaining why he has explain it focuses on content doubts about killing him. This speech is a soliloguy. not technique The first line of this speech explains that the speech is about betrayal. When he says 'he's here in double Repetition of A01 same word within trust', Macbeth means that King Duncan thinks he is Well-chosen sentence safe at the Macbeths' house. He trusts him for two and embedded reasons, firstly because Macbeth is his 'kinsman' or quotation relative and secondly because Macbeth is his Some explanation, 'subject' and has recently shown his loyalty on the but misses the opportunity to link to other parts of play In this speech Macbeth goes on to say that a host should be the one to protect a guest, rather than the Relevant quotation one to murder them. He is also saying that Duncan is but rather long given kind and meek and has been a good king: 'his virtues lack of analysis will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against the deep damnation.' This quotation has a simile that Use of terminology A02 says Duncan is like an angel. This shows that Basic analysis which Macbeth doesn't want to betray him.

Other things in this speech that show Duncan is

good are the words 'heaven's cherubim' and 'new-

does not deserve to be betrayed. At the start of the play Macbeth was made Thane of Cawdor because

the old thane was a traitor. So the king has already

In this speech, Macbeth makes the audience feel that

audience that the king is good, so they are on his side. Later when Macbeth murders Duncan in his sleep, the

crime seems even worse because we know how good

At the end of this speech Macbeth explains that his

reason for betraying Duncan is not a very nice one.

ambition'. This means it is only Macbeth's ideas

Macbeth quotes that his real reason is 'only vaulting

the king is. This soliloguy prepares the audience to be

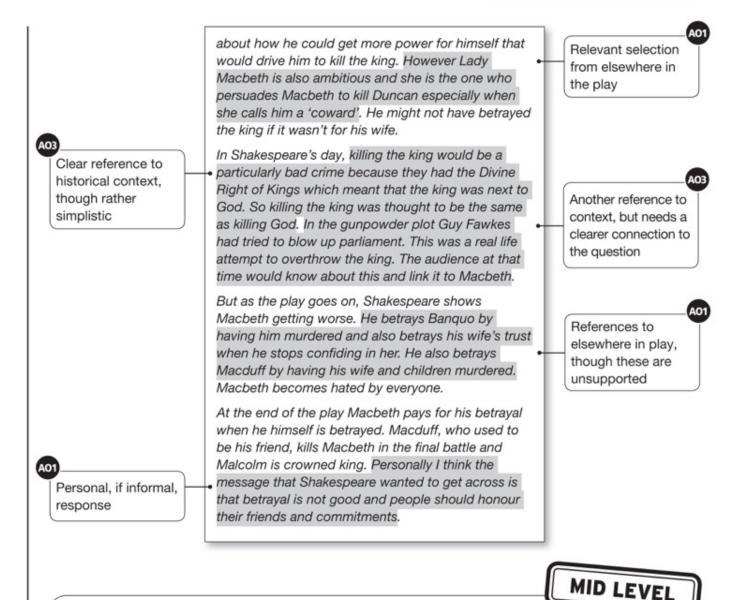
Duncan is a good person. Shakespeare shows the

even more horrified by the betrayal.

been betrayed once and now he is about to be

betrayed again.

born babe' which show that Duncan is innocent and



#### Comment:

A clear and generally well-structured response, which shows knowledge of the text as a whole. The theme is explored, though at times the points being made could be developed. There is also limited use of literary terminology. There are some useful comments on Shakespeare's language and the overall structure of the play, and quotations are embedded. Appropriate references to historical context are included, though these are a little basic.

#### For a Good Level:

- Comment more frequently on how Shakespeare uses language, structure, or aspects such as characters and symbols to convey ideas.
- Vary the openings of paragraphs.
- Link all ideas closely to the text, using examples to support answers.
- Try to include more quotations from other sections of the play and use these to track the way the theme develops.

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Relevant quotations

Relevant terminology

and some analysis of

Weak expression

- use more formal

structure

language

embedded

# PART THREE: FURTHER YORK NOTES PRACTICE TESTS WITH SHORT ANSWERS

Here are three further questions on the text in a similar style to the ones you might face in your exam. Taking into account what you have learned from the mark schemes on pages 7–8, and the sample responses to the other questions, use Questions 5 to 7 as you wish. You may choose to:

- plan ideas
- write opening paragraphs or part answers
- write full answers at your own speed
- write full answers to a set time limit.

Once you have finished, you can check to see if you have covered some of the key points suggested in the Answers section, and make a judgement about what level you have achieved.



50

## Question 5

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

At this point in the play, Lady Macbeth has just received a letter from her husband, describing his meeting with the witches on the heath.

#### LADY MACBETH

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be What thou art promised. Yet do I fear thy nature: It is too full o'the milk of human-kindness To catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great,

5 Art not without ambition, but without
The illness should attend it. What thou wouldst highly
That wouldst thou holily, wouldst not play false,
And yet wouldst wrongly win. Thou'dst have, great
Glamis,

That which cries, 'Thus thou must do' if thou have it,

- 10 And that which rather thou dost fear to do
  Than wishest should be undone. Hie thee hither
  That I may pour my spirits in thine ear,
  And chastise with the valour of my tongue
  All that impedes thee from the golden round
- 15 Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem To have thee crowned withal.

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as ruthless. Write about:

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- how far Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as ruthless in this speech
- how far Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as ruthless in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] AO4 [4 marks]