

**GCSE DRAMA – COMPONENT THREE**

**YEAR TEN**

**“MACBETH”**

**TASK BOOKLET**





**COSTUMING, HAIR AND MAKE-UP:**

**Design costumes for each of the main characters.**

**Consider colour and materials and link these to the class of the characters.**

**Make sure that you also consider hair and make-up for each character.**

**Think about multiple costumes/ hair and make up for different characters.**

**You may draw these and label with annotations, if you wish, alternatively, a detailed description for each, will be acceptable.**

**Don't forget context and original staging conventions for costuming, hair and make-up.**



**Act One Scene One, Task One:**

**Write a brief summary of the events in the scene?**

**What do we learn about the characters?**

**What is their motivation?**

**Can you make any contextual links through this scene?**

**Act One Scene One, Task Two:**

**As a director, how would you stage this scene and why?**

**Think about:**

- **Staging type and why you would choose this type of stage**
  - **Levels**
  - **Spatial relationships between the actors**
  - **Relationship between performers and audience**
    - **Links with original staging**



**Act One Scene One, Task Three**

**As a designer how would you**

- a) **Design hair, costume and Make-up for one of the witches**
- b) **Design the set**
- c) **Design the lighting**
- d) **Design the sound – would you include music**

**Don't forget to justify your choices.**

**Act One Scene Four, Task Four:**

**As an actor how would you perform the role of the first witch?**

**Think about:**

- **Voice – pitch, tempo, intonation**
  - **Movement**
  - **Facial Expression**
- **Interactions with other characters.**

**Use the printout of the scene and annotate it with your ideas.**

**Make sure you say why you would perform in this way, trying to make links with character motivation**

**Finally – suggest one rehearsal technique you could use and explain your reason for choosing this technique – how would your rehearsal technique help you to develop your character?**





**Act One Scene Two Tasks:**

- 1. Summarise the events in this scene**
- 2. What do we learn about Macbeth's character from the others in the scene?**
- 3. Imagine that you have been cast in the role of the Captain (Sergeant) in this scene. Look back over his speeches – how would you use your performance skills to portray this character? Think about:**
  - Vocal skills
  - Body Language
    - Levels
    - Proxemics
    - Orientation
  - Facial expression
  - Movement

**Make sure that you justify your choices.**

**Annotate a copy of the speeches, alternatively, make notes ready to stick into your books.**



**ACT ONE, SCENE THREE TASKS:**

- 1. Write a summary of events in this scene.**
- 2. Look back over the part where the witches give their prophecy. How would the actor playing the part of Macbeth respond? Think about:**
  - Use of voice
  - Movement
- **Positioning on Stage (think about the use of asides in this scene).**
  - Facial expression
  - Body Language
- 3. How would you describe the relationship between Macbeth and Banquo? Suggest a rehearsal technique which you could use to help the actors playing these roles, explore their relationship.**



**Act One, Scenes Four and Five Tasks:**

- 1. Write a summary of events in both scenes.**
- 2. What do we learn about the character of Lady Macbeth in scene 5?  
What is your evidence?**
- 3. What advice would you give the actor playing Lady Macbeth in this scene? Go through her soliloquys carefully and annotate with ideas.  
Think about:**
  - Voice
  - Facial expression
  - Movement
  - Body language
- 4. Suggest a rehearsal technique the actor playing Lady Macbeth could use to help in her understanding of the role and her motivation.**
- 5. Design costume, hair and make up for Lady Macbeth in this scene.  
Think about use of colour as well as materials. Her costume should reflect her high status as well as her character.**



**ACT ONE SCENES SIX AND SEVEN TASKS:**

- 1. Write a brief summary of events in both scenes.**
- 2. Scene seven opens with a famous soliloquy. What is a soliloquy? What advice would you give the actor playing Macbeth when performing this soliloquy? Think about:**
  - **Vocal skills – tone, pace, volume etc.**
    - **Movement**
    - **Body language**
    - **Facial expression.**
- 3. Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have an argument when he tells her that they will ‘proceed no further...’ How does Lady Macbeth manipulate Macbeth into doing her bidding? How would you stage this section of the scene? Think about:**
  - **Acting – how would the characters interact? – Acting, movement, stance, proxemics and orientation.**
    - **Blocking and levels**
    - **Staging type**
  - **Scenery, lighting, and sound – how would you create the tense atmosphere?**
- 4. Suggest a rehearsal technique both actors could use to explore their relationship in this scene.**



**Act Two Scene One Tasks:**

- 1. Write a brief summary of the events in this scene.**
- 2. How would you stage the dagger?**
- 3. Revisit Macbeth's famous dagger speech in this scene. You are going to prepare this speech for performance. Begin by annotating the script very thoroughly with notes regarding speech, movement, facial expression, posture. How are you going to portray him in this scene? Make sure that you use subject terminology in your response.**
- 4. Suggest one rehearsal technique you could use to help you develop the character of Macbeth in this scene. Why use this technique?**



**Act Two Scene Two Tasks:**

- 1. Write a brief summary of events in this scene**
- 2. This is a tense scene which takes place late at night/in the very early hours of the next morning, whilst it is still dark. How would you direct this scene to emphasise the tension and atmosphere? Think about:**
  - **Stage type – make links with Shakespeare’s original stage.**
    - **Positioning of the actors**
    - **Lighting – include type of lights and colour**
  - **Sound/music (remember there are sound effects in this scene)**
- 3. Macbeth is full of horror at what he has done and Lady Macbeth begins the scene irritated at her husband but once she returns from the bedchamber, she is also abhorred by her actions. What advice would you give the actors playing these roles to help them portray their feelings in this scene? Think about:**
  - **Use of voice**
  - **Movement**
    - **Actions**
    - **Stance**
  - **Facial expression**

**Suggest one rehearsal technique you would use to help the actors explore their motivations and feelings.**



## Act Two Scene Three Tasks:

1. Write a brief summary of the scene
2. The purpose of the porter is to use comedy to relieve the tension from the previous scene and prepare them for the high drama in the rest of the scene. How would you heighten the comedy in the opening of act two scene three? What advice would you give to the actor playing the porter?
3. Select one key line from each of the other characters in the scene which exemplifies their feelings towards the murder of the King. How would you deliver each line?
4. How would you use space and physicality in this scene to heighten the tension and show how the characters feel about Duncan's murder?

## Act Two, Scene Four Tasks:

Time has moved on and this scene informs the audience of events after the murder of King Duncan.

1. Write a brief summary of the events in this scene.
2. Research the Elizabethan World Picture. Write a definition of this term. How do the events spoken about in this scene reflect this belief?



**TRIVIA QUESTION:**

**What is this and what was it/is it used for?**



**Act Three, Scene One Tasks:**

- 1. Write a brief summary of this scene.**
- 2. Imagine that you have been cast in the role of Banquo. Look again at his opening soliloquy. How is he feeling? What is he saying? How would you as an actor portray this in his speech? Think about your use of voice, facial expression and movement.**
- 3. Imagine that you have been cast in the role of Macbeth. Look at the soliloquy beginning “To be thus is nothing” How would you portray Macbeth in this speech? Again look at what he is saying, what is his motivation. How would you use voice, facial expression and movement?**
- 4. As a designer, how would you use costume, hair and make-up to present the murderers? Think about their character and their class.**



**Act Three Scenes Two, Three and Four Tasks:**

- 1. Write a brief synopsis for each scene**
- 2. How would you stage the banquet scene? Think about staging type, proxemics, orientation, props, scenery, lighting and sound. Make links with original staging.**
- 3. What advice would you give the actor playing the ghost of Banquo?**
- 4. How would you design Banquo's hair and make-up in this scene? Think about the description of the ghost given by Macbeth.**
- 5. How would you perform the roles of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in each scene in which they appear?**
- 6. Suggest a rehearsal technique you would use to help the actors playing these characters to explore their role. Why would you choose this technique?**

**Act Three, Scenes Five and Six Tasks:**

- 1. Write a brief summary of both scenes.**
- 2. What advice would you give the actor playing Hecate? Think about her use of voice, movement and gesture.**
- 3. Suggest a suitable costume for the character of Hecate. How would this differ from the other witches? Why would it be different?**





**Act Four Scene One Tasks:**

**1. How would you stage Act four scene one? Think about:**

- **Which type of stage you would use and why.**
- **Style of theatre and why.**

- **Set**

- **Lighting**

- **Sound**

**Make sure that you make links to original staging in your response.**

**2. As a director how would you stage the apparitions in this scene. Look carefully at the stage directions. What advice would you give the actors playing these characters? Think about their use of voice and movement.**

**3. As a designer, how would you use hair, make up and costume for the apparitions? Justify your choices.**

## Act Four Scene Two Tasks:

1. Write a brief summary of the events in this scene.
2. Lady Macduff is unhappy about Macduff's absence. How would you portray this in her interchange with both Ross and her son? Think about how she would use her voice.
3. Suggest a rehearsal technique which will help the actors playing these roles, explore their relationship.
4. How would you stage the murder of Lady Macduff's son? Which style of theatre would you use and why?





**Act Four Scene Three Tasks:**

- 1. Write a brief summary of events in this scene.**
- 2. In this scene Malcolm tests Macduff's loyalty. How does he do this? What advice would you give to the actors playing both Malcolm and Macduff in this scene? How would Macduff react and how would you portray this?**
- 3. Ross arrives and breaks the news of the slaughter of Macduff's wife, children and servants. How should Ross deliver these lines? How should Macduff react? What advice would you give to the actor playing Macduff in this scene?**
- 4. Suggest a range of rehearsal techniques which could be used to help actors explore motivation and relationships in this scene.**



### Act Five Tasks:

- For each scene, write a brief summary of events.
- **Scene One:** in this scene Lady Macbeth sleep walks and talks in her sleep about the murder of King Duncan. How would you use lighting and sound to create tension in this scene? What advice would you give to the actor playing Lady Macbeth – think about use of voice and movement. How would the Doctor and the Gentlewoman react?
- **Scene Three:** How does Macbeth feel in this scene? How would you portray his motivation? How would you present the servant? Suggest a rehearsal technique which could be used by the servant and Macbeth to explore their relationship? How does Macbeth react to the doctor's news?
- **Scene Five –** How does Macbeth react to the news of Lady Macbeth's death? How would the actor playing Macbeth portray this on stage?
- **Scenes seven and eight –** How would you stage the fight scenes? Think about stage type, lighting, sound, scenery and props. What advice would you give to the actors playing Macbeth and Macduff?
- **Scene nine –** How would you stage the end of the play? Think about stage type, lighting, sound, scenery and props.

