



<p>15</p> <p>20</p> <p>25</p> <p>30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Despair thy charm;</p> <p>And let the angel whom thou still hast served Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb Untimely ripp'd. <b>MACBETH</b> Accursed 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. <b>MACDUFF</b> 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.' <b>MACBETH</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">I will not yield,</p> <p>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!'</p>
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Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a villain. Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this extract
- How Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a villain in the novel as a whole

[30 marks]

#### 4. Model Answer (extract)

This extract comes from the end of the play, following the death of Lady Macbeth, arguably the instigator of Macbeth's villainy, following the prophecies of the witches. In King James' time, there was a strong belief in witches, so much so that the king supported the wide scale persecution of witches in Scotland, where Macbeth is set. Often when one witch was found others followed which is significant in Macbeth as both Lady and Macbeth believe the prophecies of the witches, rather than seeing them as heretical, this cementing them as the villains, the 'dead butcher and his fiendlike queen'. Shakespeare uses this belief for dramatic effect, as throughout the play Macbeth has believed himself to be invincible due to the prophecies, which are now unravelling, as Macduff cries 'Macduff was from his mother's womb/ untimely ripped.', contrasting the fact that Macbeth was enigmatically told that he could not be killed by 'one of woman born'. The fact that Shakespeare end stops this line would indicate to an actor to leave a pause here, and enhance the dramatic moment for an audience. In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was believed that caesarean was an unnatural birth and therefore Macduff technically was not born of woman. The use of the powerful metaphorical verb 'ripped' suggests a sense of violence, a violence that Macduff here will us to fight and ultimately kill Macbeth, thus good triumphing over evil.

However, Macbeth cannot be fully seen as villain in this extract, as the language reminds us of the honourable soldier he was before the women interfered. He questions why he should metaphorically 'play the Roman fool', reminding us that he will not commit suicide (unlike his wife) and will die with honour, not like a 'fool', and although he does not wish to fight Macduff, he will not 'be baited with the rabble's curse', metaphorically linking

himself to the treatment of an animal like a bear, as following battles it was common to see the defeated side chained, marched through the streets and tormented for all to see. He finally states that he 'will not yield', but will 'throw [his] warlike shield' before his body and fight. The adjective 'warlike' remind us of Macbeth's virtues at the start of the play, when he is admired by the Captain who, when reporting to King Duncan, called him 'Brave Macbeth', but ironically stated that he then fought 'distaining fortune'. This would suggest that although Macbeth is seen to be the villain of the play, this could be mainly due to his gullibility and ambition (and the effect of the women – both the witches and his wife) than to his qualities as a soldier, as he had the potential to be great and honourable.

## 5. Tips/How to get the marks – what is the examiner looking for?

- Ensure you explore language and/or structure and/or form
- Try to embed quotes within your answer
- Focus on key individual words
- Use subject terminology
- Explore the effect of language – think, feel, imagine
- Contextual ideas – a 16/17<sup>th</sup> century (and 10<sup>th</sup> century Scotland) & 21<sup>st</sup> century audience
- Thematic ideas
- Try to use quotations from the whole novel (memorise quotations)

## 6. Revision resources

- Good revision sites: 'sparknotes' GCSE Bitesize, York notes,
- YouTube – there are multiple version of Macbeth for you to watch on YouTube from 25 minute animated versions, to full hour epics! Plus 'Mr Bruff' and 'Stacey Reay' both have excellent revision videos
- Use your study guides
- Apps – 'litcharts'
- Make your own questions and plan the answer

## 7. Key Quotations

1. 'Fair is foul, and foul is fair'
2. 'For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name-'
3. 'Thou shalt get kings, thou though be none'
4. 'do I fear thy nature,/ It is too full o'th' milk of human kindness'
5. '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.'
6. 'Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more!  
Macbeth does murder sleep','
7. 'A little water clears us of this deed:'
8. 'Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,  
As the weird women promised, and, I fear,  
Thou play'dst most foully for't:'
9. 'Macduff was from his mother's womb  
Untimely ripp'd.'
10. 'this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen,'