

**Introduction**

* Briefly explain the context of the extract
* State that Macbeth experiences intense feelings of guilt and explain why

**Section 1**

* Write about Macbeth’s mindset at the start of the extract
* Include an explanation of what blood symbolises
* Explain why the blood on Macbeth’s hands is significant
* Explore why ‘a little water’ will not ‘clear’ Macbeth of the deed

**Section 2**

* Explain why Lady Macbeth accuses Macbeth of having a ‘white’ heart
* Write about the importance of Lady Macbeth taking control of the situation
* Explain how the knocking builds tension

**Section 3**

* Make a link with Lady Macbeth’s control over Macbeth in A1-S5
* Write about her concern that he lacks ruthlessness
* Write about the reversal of traditional gender roles

**Section 4**

* Make a link with the frustration Lady Macbeth feels towards Macbeth in A1-S7
* Explain that there has always been an imbalance of power between them
* Explain that the extract shows there is a growing divide between them
* Highlight that both characters are united by their excessive ambition
* Explain that the key difference is in how they deal with the consequences

**Summary**

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**Content Targets**

* Explore how Lady Macbeth’s behaviour challenges traditional gender roles

*e.g. She calls upon evil spirits to ‘unsex’ her in A1-S5 and she accuses Macbeth of cowardice in A1-S7*

* Explore how feelings of guilt put pressure on Macbeth and Lady Macbeth’s relationship

*e.g. Lady Macbeth eventually succumbs to feelings of guilt and is observed sleepwalking in A5-S1*

* Explore how Macbeth becomes an increasingly isolated figure as the play progresses

*e.g. The feast ends in chaos and the guests are forced to leave in A3-S4*

* Explore how power between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth shifts as the play progresses

*e.g. Macbeth chooses not to confide in Lady Macbeth about the murder of Banquo in A3-A2*

* Explore how other images in the play (like darkness and stormy weather) are significant

*e.g. Ross and the Old Man discuss the perpetual darkness that follows Duncan’s murder in A2-S4*

* Develop your analysis by making stronger links with other relevant scenes

*e.g. Try to focus on a broad section of the play and not just the opening scenes*

* Develop your analysis by exploring the social and political issues of the time

*e.g. James I was fearful of threats to his kingship and England was politically divided at the time*

* Develop your existing points further by analysing Shakespeare’s use of language

*e.g. There is a contrast between Macbeth anxious questioning and Lady Macbeth’s bold exclamation*

**Academic Writing Targets**

* Start each paragraph with a clear topic sentence that directly addresses the essay question

*e.g. In this scene, Shakespeare reveals the growing tension between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth...*

* Use appositives (i.e. extra information placed within commas) to add depth to your analysis

*e.g. Lady Macbeth, frustrated at Macbeth’s inability to remain calm, accuses him of...*

* Choose language that conveys a formal tone (and avoid using words that are ‘chatty’)

*e.g. Macbeth is deeply disturbed when he arrives on stage after the murder of Duncan...*

* Embed short quotations into your sentences when you form a point

*e.g. Lady Macbeth accuses Macbeth of being ‘infirm of purpose’ when he refuses to...*