

Understanding the question

Although there is only one question, you are asked to do two tasks:

- 1 For the first task, you will be given a short extract from a Shakespeare play you have studied. You will have to write about this in detail.
- 2 For the second task, you will have to write about the play as a whole.

However, you don't need to write about each task separately – you can combine them within your answer.

The question will ask you to look at **theme** or **character** or both.

The question on the paper will be like this.

Section A: Shakespeare

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

Macbeth

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

At this point in the play Macbeth is speaking. He has just been told that his wife, Lady Macbeth, is dead.

	She should have died hereafter. There would have been a time for such a word. Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
5	To the last syllable of recorded time, And all our yesterdays have lighted fools The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
10	And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing.

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a desperate and changed man.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Using the extract

Consider the first part of the question: **how does Shakespeare present the character in the speech?** The question will be about either a theme or character in the play. When writing about the extract it is helpful to think about **language**, **structure** and **subject terminology**.