MACBETH ACTS 1 & 2 REVISION

The Sympadeia Sprint (45 Min) • Grade 10 Essay Preparation

BOARD SETUP (BEFORE CLASS BEGINS)

Write large on the board: **AMBITION → DECEPTION → GUILT**

Write on the side panel: **P.E.E.L.** (Point, Evidence, Explain, Link)

Goal: Prepare Grade 10s for Essay Q1 (Ambition) and Essay Q2 (Deception).

00:00 - 15:00 | ANAMNESIS: Ambition & The Locus of Blame (Prep for Q1)

The Hook: Personal Ambitions vs. The Play

- **Prompt:** "What is your biggest personal ambition right now?" (Take 2-3 quick answers).
- **The Loose Analogy:** Build a quick, on-the-fly analogy using one of their actual answers. (e.g., If they say "making the first team," ask what they would do if a trusted source guaranteed them the spot, but their partner pressured them to secretly sabotage the current captain to secure it).
- **The Pivot:** Point to AMBITION. "Macbeth is a celebrated, brutal war hero. His ambition is to be King. He murders King Duncan to get it. The question you have to answer in your essay is: Whose fault is it?"
- **Class Vote:** Divide 100% of the blame between the three forces at play in Act 1.

Textual Mapping (Q1: Ambition & Influence)

- **Locus 1: The Witches (External).** They drop the prophecy but do not command murder.

> *"The instruments of darkness tell us truths, / Win us with honest trifles, to betray's / In deepest consequence."*

- **Locus 2: Lady Macbeth (Interpersonal).** She weaponizes his ego and their toxic relationship dynamic.
- **Locus 3: Macbeth (Internal).** He already harbors "black and deep desires".

WHAT I LEARN FROM THEM (DIAGNOSTIC)

Which locus of blame do they favor? This reveals if they grasp Macbeth's personal agency (crucial for passing Q1).

15:00 - 30:00 | APORIA: The Impasse & Deception (Prep for Q1 & Q2)

The Impasse: Logic vs. Ego

- **Context:** Macbeth logically rejects the murder (hospitality, Duncan is a good king).
- **The Quote:**

> *"I have no spur / To prick the sides of my intent, but only / Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself / And falls on th' other-"*

- **Shorthand:** Horse-riding metaphor. No valid reason to kill; only a reckless desire that crashes.
- **The Override:** Lady Macbeth bypasses logic and attacks his manhood: *"When you durst do it, then you were a man."*

The Deception Pivot (Q2: False Faces)

- **The Question:** Point to DECEPTION. "How does a famous general murder a king in his own home without getting caught before the act?"
- **Lady Macbeth's Strategy:**

> *"Look like th' innocent flower, / But be the serpent under't." (They must weaponize hospitality).*

- **Macbeth's Surrender:**

> *"False face must hide what the false heart doth know."*

WHAT I LEARN FROM THEM (DIAGNOSTIC)

Can they explain how deception makes the crime possible? (Core requirement for Q2).

30:00 - 38:00 | ARETE: Synthesis & Immediate Ruin (Prep for Q1 & Q2)

The Fallout: Paranoia & Psychological Prison

- **Context:** Point to GUILT. They successfully killed the king, but their minds immediately fracture.
- **Pre-Murder:** Macbeth hallucinates the dagger (fear/desire externalized).
- **Loss of Peace:** Duncan is killed sleeping (a symbol of innocence).

> *"Macbeth does murder sleep."*

Concealing Guilt:

- **Macbeth:** *"Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood..."* (Permanent moral stain).
- **Lady Macbeth:** *"A little water clears us of this deed."* (She frames the guards to maintain the false face; dramatic irony).

Synthesis Conclusion: Ambition and Deception get you the crown, but they immediately destroy your own mind.

WHAT I LEARN FROM THEM (DIAGNOSTIC)

Do they grasp that the immediate consequences in Act 2 are psychological (paranoia, guilt, hearing voices) rather than just political? (Crucial for Q2).

38:00 - 45:00 | THE TOOLKIT: Writing the Perfect PEEL

Prepping for Thursday's Assessment (Abbotts Standard)

Point to **P.E.E.L.** on the board. Remind them of the strict rules for their essay paragraphs using the school's framework.

P - Point: Make a clear, debatable claim that answers the prompt.

Rule: Do not just state a plot fact (e.g., "Macbeth is ambitious"). Absolutely no empty phrases like "I think" or "In my opinion".

E - Evidence: Provide specific proof from the text.

Rule: No standalone quotes. Quotes must be embedded grammatically into your own sentences. Use short, precise phrases.

E - Explanation: This must be the most developed part of the paragraph.

Rule: Climb the "Analysis Ladder". State the literal meaning, analyze the specific word choice (like a metaphor or adjective), explain its effect, and tie it to the argument. Use analytical verbs like *suggests, reveals, emphasises*.

L - Link: Connect the paragraph back to the overall essay thesis.

Rule: Do not just copy your Point sentence. State what the paragraph has actually proved and how it supports your main argument.

KEY QUOTATIONS BANK

Essential Evidence for Essay Q1 (Ambition) & Q2 (Deception)

Act 1: The Temptation & The Plot

1.1.12-13

> *"Fair is foul, and foul is fair / Hover through the fog and filthy air."*

The Witches establishing their motive of total moral inversion.

1.3.135-138

> *"And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, / The instruments of darkness tell us truths, / Win us with honest trifles, to betray's / In deepest consequence."*

Banquo's warning—essential for Q1 regarding the Witches' influence.

1.4.58-60

> *"Stars, hide your fires; / Let not light see my black and deep desires. / The eye wink at the hand, yet let that be / Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see."*

Macbeth acknowledging his own internal guilt and ambition—essential for Q1.

1.5.47-50

> *"Come, you spirits / That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, / And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full / Of direst cruelty."*

Lady Macbeth begging to be stripped of her femininity/humanity.

1.5.75-76

> *"Look like th' innocent flower, / But be the serpent under 't."*

Lady Macbeth's core strategy for deception—essential for Q2.

1.7.25-28

> *"I have no spur / To prick the sides of my intent, but only / Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself / And falls on th' other-"*

Macbeth admitting his only motive is greed—essential for Q1.

1.7.54-55

> *"When you durst do it, then you were a man; / And to be more than what you were, you would / Be so much more the man."*

Lady Macbeth weaponizing his masculinity.

1.7.62-67

> *"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 plucked my nipple from his boneless gums / And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you / Have done to this."*

Lady Macbeth's most disturbing line, proving her ruthless commitment.

1.7.94-95

> *"False face must hide what the false heart doth know."*

Macbeth agreeing to the deception—essential for Q2.

Act 2: The Murder & The Immediate Ruin

2.1.44-45

> *"Is this a dagger which I see before me, / The handle toward my hand?"*

Macbeth's guilt and desire manifesting as a hallucination before the crime.

2.2.13-15

> *"Alack, I am afraid they have awaked, / And 'tis not done. Th' attempt and not the deed / Confounds us."*

Lady Macbeth's acute paranoia that they will be caught in the act of the murder.

2.2.42-44

> *"But wherefore could not I pronounce 'Amen'? / I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen' / Stuck in my throat."*

Macbeth's terror upon realizing he has permanently severed his connection to God and goodness.

2.2.47-48

> *"Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more! / Macbeth does murder sleep'"*

The immediate psychological consequence: the permanent loss of peace.

2.2.76

> *"How is't with me, when every noise appals me?"*

Macbeth's immediate descent into sheer paranoia, terrified by a simple knocking at the door.

2.2.78-79

> *"Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood / Clean from my hand?"*

Macbeth realizing his moral stain is permanent and overwhelming.

2.2.86

> *"A little water clears us of this deed."*

Lady Macbeth's dramatic irony and attempt to maintain the deception—essential for Q2.

2.2.94-95

> *"Wake Duncan with thy knocking. I would thou couldst."*

Macbeth expressing immediate, crushing regret for his ambition as someone knocks at the gate.

2.3.165

> *"There's daggers in men's smiles."*

Donalbain recognizing the lethal deception around them; he realizes they cannot trust appearances—essential for Q2.

2.4.6-7

> *"By th' clock 'tis day, / And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp."*

Ross noting that unnatural darkness has completely eclipsed the sun, reflecting the evil of the murder.

2.4.12-13

> *"A falcon, tow'ring in her pride of place, / Was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed."*

The Old Man describing the Great Chain of Being fracturing; a lesser, unnatural predator killing an apex predator.

2.4.21-23

> *"'Tis said they eat each other. / They did so, to th' amazement of mine eyes / That looked upon 't."*

The Old Man and Ross describing Duncan's tame horses turning wild and cannibalistic—the natural order violently breaking.