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English literature paper 1 macbeth model answer

This scene comes after Macbeth killed Duncan, and he seems guilty right away. He hears strange voices, which show that he is upset. 'Don't sleep anymore!' This shows that Macbeth is so guilty that he will never be able to sleep again. He has murdered the king while he sleeps, which is a deceitful thing to do especially as the king is in line to God. In Shakespeare's day, people believed in the divine right of the Kings, which meant there was a social hierarchy with God at the top. The king was next and so to kill a king would be considered even more terrible than by today's social values. Macbeth's punishment for this is that his own sleep is murdered. Macbeth says the innocent sleep that shows Duncan was immaculate makes him more guilty for killing him. The two figures contrast and as the piece continues we see this more and more. Macbeth becomes a violent king, mainly as a result of his guilt and fear of being exposed. Compared to Duncan, he is unpopular and disliked to the extent that Malcolm eventually assembles an army to overthrow him. When he says Glamis has murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor / Going to sleep no more he talks about his titles that Duncan gave him. At the beginning of the play, Macbeth Thane of Glamis and then Duncan gave him the title Thane of Cawdor as a reward for his efforts in the war. This was part of the witches' prophecy that led to Macbeth killing Duncan. His two titles represent the old and new Macbeth and show that all parts of him are guilty. Then Lady Macbeth takes command and orders him to wash away the guilt. She says wash this dirty witness from your hand, which means getting rid of the evidence. She is also guilty because she has persuaded her husband to go through with the murder, even though she does not show it here. Earlier on stage, she says she couldn't kill Duncan herself because he reminded her of her own father. Her role in the murder is not physical, although she returns to Duncan's room to lay the daggers on the guards. She is composed around the murder, while Macbeth's guilt is evident from the start. Lady Macbeth's guilt seems to haunt her, and this reference to hand washing comes back later in the play when we see her go to her sleep and try to wash out a damned place from her hands. This is a metaphor for her feeling guilty. Lady Macbeth's guilt leads to her madness. Later in the play, Macbeth wishes he could sleep like Duncan and be at rest. He is not able to get any sense of peace because of his actions. His guilt makes him afraid of his friend Banquo, and he ends up getting him killed too. The fact that he sends murderers to find and kill Banquo suggests that Macbeth is not prepared to risk guilt for killing another friend with his own hands. Overall, Shakespeare uses this scene to show Macbeth's guilt very clearly and shows how the guilt will get worse for both of them later in the play. Page 2 Overview ContentStudyReviseMy Notes Select a Your Assessment Examiners notes examiners assessment The example question of William Shakespeare's play, Macbeth, explains how to set about constructing a good written answer to a typical exam question. A free Macbeth model response that uses a differentiated task to get students to rate it. This can be used for revision or before students do a mock exam to get them to consider how to develop their ideas. The focus of the question is how Macbeth's hallucinations and visions are important in the excerpt and across the play. Read moreFreeReport a problem

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