*The following activities are designed around exam questions. This means you will complete a series of small activities to help you answer an essay question like the one you will receive in your GCSE Literature paper. Use the notes from this booklet and a copy of the text to help you prepare.*

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| **Activity 9: Essay Preparation** |

*You will be answering the following question:*

Read the extract and answer the question that follows:

**DUNCAN**

My plenteous joys,  
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves  
In drops of sorrow. Sons, kinsmen, thanes,  
And you whose places are the nearest, know  
We will establish our estate upon  
Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter  
The Prince of Cumberland; which honour must  
Not unaccompanied invest him only,  
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine  
On all deservers. From hence to Inverness,  
And bind us further to you.

**MACBETH**

The rest is labour, which is not used for you:  
I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful  
The hearing of my wife with your approach;  
So humbly take my leave.

**DUNCAN**

My worthy Cawdor!

**MACBETH**

[Aside] The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step  
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,  
For in my way it lies. 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.

**Starting with this extract, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character.**

You could write about:

* how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character in the extract
* how Shakespeare presents Macbeth as an ambitious character in the play as a whole.

*Highlight and annotate the extract with initial ideas that jump out at you. What could you discuss from the extract in your answer?*

*Complete the following analytical verbs to help you explore Shakespeare’s authorial intent with Macbeth’s character. Authorial intent is when you explain* ***what*** *an author is doing and* ***why*** *they are doing it. The ‘why’ is extremely important and often missed out by students in their exams so that is what we are going to start with today. One has been done for you.*

**Shakespeare may be presenting Macbeth as an ambitious character:**

* **to warn audiences of the tragic consequences that could occur if one is blinded by their desires.**
* **to teach**
* **to reveal the importance of**
* **to criticise**
* **to advocate**

*Pick three of your sentences from above and rewrite them below. This time, extend your sentences with the connectives ‘because’, ‘but’ or ‘so’. Look at the example below to help you.*

**Shakespeare may be presenting Macbeth as an ambitious character to warn audiences of the tragic consequences that could occur if one is blinded by their desires so he traps his eponymous tragic hero in a cyclical nature of violence which eventually leads to his downfall.**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

*Pick one of the sentences above. Copy it out again. Extend it by using one analytical verb to lead in to a second analytical verb in order to explore more of Shakespeare’s authorial intent. Look at the example below to help you.*

**Shakespeare may be presenting Macbeth as an ambitious character to warn audiences of the tragic consequences that could occur if one is blinded by their desires, so he traps his eponymous tragic hero in a cyclical nature of violence which eventually leads to his downfall. By warning his audience about this, Shakespeare is also criticising ambitious people and the lengths they would go to in order to get what they want, a reference perhaps to the plotters who aimed to blow up Parliament in order to kill the king but failed.**

**1.**

*Write down five quotations you could use in your essay. They do not necessarily have to be spoken by Macbeth himself. One has been done for you to give you a sixth quotation.*

**‘We will proceed no further in this business.’**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

*Use your analytical verbs to quickly explain what Shakespeare is doing with each quotation. You do not need to write in full sentences as this is just a plan. Look at the example to help you.*

**Eg. ‘We will proceed no further in this business.’– revealing that even though Macbeth has had these thoughts, he is still wary of going ahead with the murder.**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.