

(i) “Macbeth’s relationships with other characters can be seen primarily as power struggles which prove crucial to the outcome of the play.”

Discuss the above statement in relation to at least two of Macbeth’s relationships with other characters. Support your answer with suitable reference to the play, *Macbeth*.

Candidates are free to agree and/or disagree with this view, but they should engage with at least two of Macbeth's relationships with other characters and demonstrate how these can be seen as power struggles which prove crucial to the outcome of the play.

Code **PS** for power struggles within relationships.

Code **CO** for relationships crucial to the outcome of the play.

Indicative material:

- Macbeth's volatile relationship with Lady Macbeth is central to their tragic downfall
- the strained dynamic between Duncan and Macbeth propels the political conflict
- Macbeth loses the moral battle with the witches whose influence hastens his demise
- the Macbeth-Banquo power struggle leads to murder and accelerates a reign of terror
- Macduff is both Macbeth's nemesis and Scotland's saviour

Etc.

(ii) “Throughout the play, *Macbeth*, Shakespeare makes effective use of a variety of dramatic techniques that evoke a wide range of responses from the audience.”

Discuss this view with reference to at least two dramatic techniques used by Shakespeare in the play. Support your answer with suitable reference to the text.

Candidates are free to agree or/and disagree with this view, but they should focus on at least two dramatic techniques used by Shakespeare and the wide range of responses these evoke from the audience.

Code **UD** for effective/ineffective use of dramatic techniques.

Code **AR** for audience responses.

Indicative material:

- supernatural/occult elements have theatrical, psychological and emotional effects
- impact of powerful imagery/symbolism, e.g. blood, darkness, animals, clothing
- changing audience responses evoked through plot structure and characterisation
- range of unsettling/disturbing settings helps frame audience reactions
- other techniques, e.g. soliloquies, contrasts, irony, humour might also evoke responses **Etc.**