

Key Terms			
Regicide	The action of killing a king.	Other Key Terms	
Patriarchal	That society is dominated by men and men rank higher than women.	Gender	A social construction about how the sexes are supposed behave and act.
Hubris	Excessive pride or self-confidence.	Usurper	A person who takes a position of power or importance illegally or by force.
Hamartia	Fatal flaw which leads to tragic hero's downfall.	Guilt	Responsibility for having done something wrong either against the law or morally.
Prophecy	A prediction of what will happen in the future.	Ambition	A strong desire to do or achieve something.
Dramatic Devices		Thane	A Scottish lord.
Dramatic Irony	When an audience knows more than the characters.	Tyrant	A cruel and oppressive ruler.
Stage Directions	Instructions given to actors to guide them how to act, stand, behave, speak etc.	Manipulation	The action of influencing that aims to change behaviour or perception of others through indirect, deceptive, or underhanded tactics.
Structure	How a play and the events are organised.	Equivocation	The use of ambiguous language to conceal the truth or to avoid committing oneself.
Soliloquy	One character speaking to the audience.	Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
Iambic Pentameter	A line of writing that consists of ten syllables in a specific pattern of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable, or a short syllable followed by a long syllable.	Paradox	Contradictory statements.
Blank Verse	Poetry written with regular metrical but unrhymed lines, almost always in iambic pentameter.	Semantic Field	Words that can be grouped thematically or connected to a subject.
Tragedy	A play dealing with tragic events and having an unhappy ending, especially one concerning the downfall of the main character.	Imagery	Visually descriptive or figurative language.
Tragic Hero	A tragic hero is a literary character who makes a judgment error that inevitably leads to his/her own destruction.	Repentant	Feeling regret or remorse.
Rhyming Couplets	A rhyming pair of successive lines of verse	Kingship	The state or position of being a king.



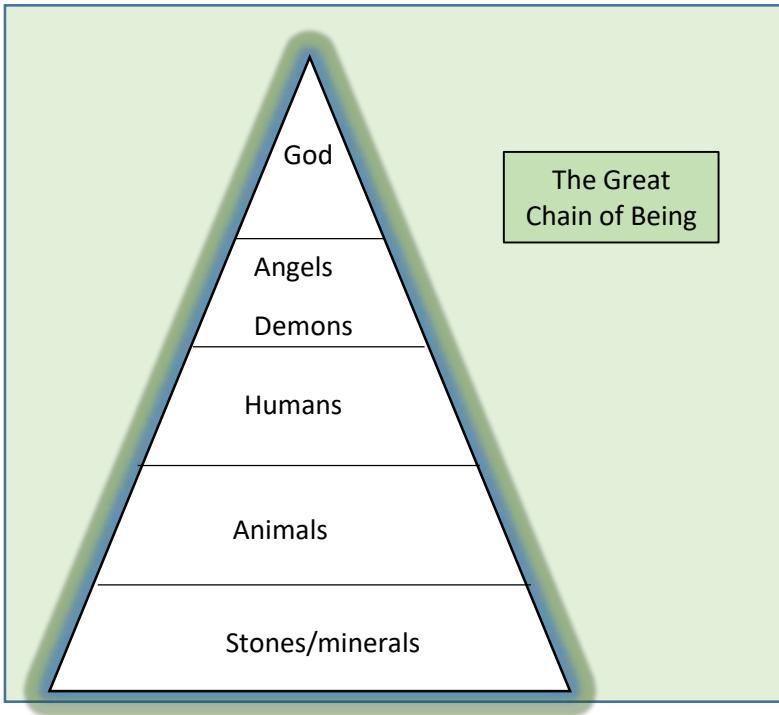
**Seven Deadly Sins**

*Seven deadly sins, also called seven capital sins or seven cardinal sins, in Roman Catholic theology, are the seven vices that spur other sins and further immoral behaviour. The seven deadly sins can be thought of as dispositions toward sin and separation from God. Lust, for example, could result in adultery, which is a mortal sin, or could lead to somewhat less intentional immoral thoughts that would be classified as venial sins.*

Lust: intense desire (typically sexual)  
 Gluttony: excessive indulgence (typically food or drink)  
 Sloth: apathy, laziness, idleness  
 Envy: resentful, jealous of what others have  
 Greed: selfish excessive desire for more (usually money)  
 Pride: excessive arrogance, conceit, lack of humility  
 Wrath: strong or vengeful anger, lack of self-control

- Big Questions:**
1. What is regicide and how does it oppose the Divine Right of Kings?
  2. Who was James I?
  3. How does the play explore the supernatural?
  4. How is symbolism used in the play?
  5. How is masculinity presented in the play?
  6. Who is Macbeth?
  7. Who is Lady Macbeth and does she represent a typical women of her time?
  8. Who is Banquo?
  9. What is a Machiavellian villain?
  10. Is Macbeth a tragic hero?
  11. What is Macbeth's hamartia?
  12. Who was Shakespeare?

- Key Themes**
- Ambition
  - Fate vs Freewill
  - Guilt
  - The Supernatural
  - Power
  - Gender
  - Kingship
  - Appearance vs Reality
  - Order vs Chaos
  - Loyalty



# GCSE Macbeth Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel

## James I

James I had been James VI of Scotland before he succeeded to the English throne in 1603. In focusing on Macbeth, a figure from Scottish history, Shakespeare paid homage to his king's Scottish lineage. Additionally, the witches' prophecy that Banquo will found a line of kings is a clear nod to James' family's claim to have descended from the historical Banquo. King James believed in the Divine Right of Kings: the belief that God had chosen him to rule on Earth.

## The Supernatural

King James was terrified of witches in real life. He felt they had tried to kill him and his family and was a key part of witch hunts and trials, as it was against the law to be a witch. He later published *Daemonologie* in 1597. Charges of witchcraft continued in Great Britain, with Scotland in particular experiencing a number of witch hunt crazes throughout the 17th century.

## Jacobean Society



## Gender

Women were expected to be subservient, quiet and homebound, with their primary ambitions entirely confined to marriage, childbirth and homemaking; social status and economic class played into what degree these expectations manifested. Women during this time could also not perform on stage.

## Shakespeare

Shakespeare's dad was friends with one of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators; Shakespeare drank in the pub where the plot was hatched. He was very keen to show King James 1st that he was not part of the Gunpowder Plot.

## The Great Chain of Being

The Great Chain of Being is the belief in a social hierarchy, planned by God, as follows: God – Angels – Demons – Humans – Beasts – Plants – Rocks. The Great Chain of Being was seen as the natural order of society. Macbeth breaks this natural order when he kills Duncan.

## The Gunpowder Plot

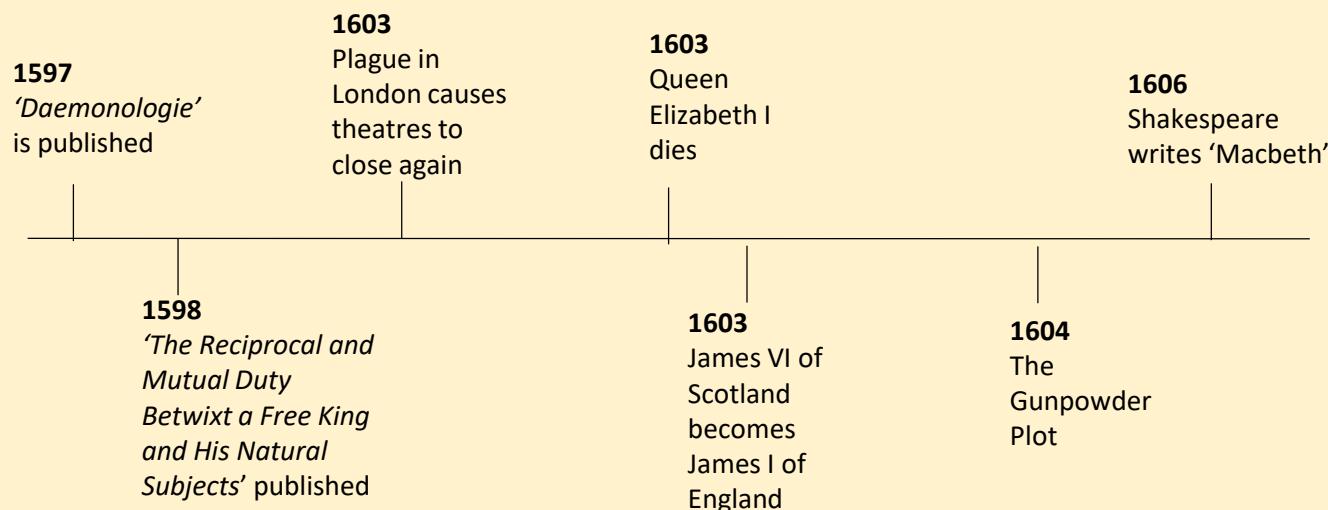
In 1604, English Catholics attempted to assassinate King James in the famous Gunpowder Plot. The play is a piece of political propaganda, warning English audiences that regicide leads to eternal damnation.

The play 'Macbeth' is a tragedy that tells the story of a soldier whose overriding ambition and thirst for power cause him to abandon his morals and bring about the near destruction of the kingdom he seeks to rule. Shakespeare wrote the play during the reign of James I, in 1606, and acts as a political propaganda that warns about the dangers of trying to overthrow a king.

## The Plot of Macbeth

<b>Act 1</b>	Macbeth and Banquo encounter three witches, after a battle, where the Thane of Cawdor was executed. The witches give both men predictions and then vanish. One of the predictions given to Macbeth comes true almost immediately. Macbeth writes a letter to his wife. She is excited by the news and summons evil spirits to give her the courage to commit murder. Macbeth arrives to announce that King Duncan is coming to spend the night at their castle.
<b>Act 2</b>	Macbeth agrees to kill Duncan but then sees a dagger as he is having second thoughts. However, he resolves to kill King Duncan, who is found dead at dawn by Macduff. The king's sons flee, fearing for their lives. In their absence, Macbeth is chosen to be king.
<b>Act 3</b>	Banquo suspects that Macbeth was involved in Duncan's murder. Macbeth fears Banquo and so plans to have Banquo and his son, Fleance, murdered away from the castle. Banquo is killed but Fleance escapes. The ghost of Banquo appears at a feast that only Macbeth can see.
<b>Act 4</b>	Macbeth revisits the witches and is told more prophecies. Macbeth has Macduff's family killed and Macduff flees to England with Malcolm.
<b>Act 5</b>	Lady Macbeth sleep walks due to guilt. Malcom returns to Scotland with Macduff and an army ready to overthrow Macbeth. Lady Macbeth commits suicide and Macbeth realises he has been tricked by the witches. Macduff kills Macbeth and Malcolm is made king.

## Timeline



## Characters

Macbeth  
 Lady Macbeth  
 Duncan  
 Malcom  
 Donalbain  
 Banquo  
 Macduff  
 Lady Macduff  
 Fleance  
 Three witches

## Sample exam questions

- How does Shakespeare present Macbeth as a powerful character?
  - How does Shakespeare the issue of morality?
  - How does Shakespeare present Lady Macbeth as a powerful woman?
  - How does Shakespeare present the theme of morality?
  - How does Shakespeare present the idea of the supernatural?
  - How does Shakespeare present the theme of guilt?
- 30 marks**  
**4 SPAG**