

Macbeth

Read the following question from Act 4 scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth has revisited the witches who have shown him three apparitions about his future.

MACBETH Time, thou anticipatest my dread exploits:
The flighty purpose never is o'ertook
Unless the deed go with it; from this moment
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand. And even now,
To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and
done:
The castle of Macduff I will surprise; 150
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o' the sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line. No boasting like a fool;
This deed I'll do before this purpose cool.
But no more sights!--Where are these gentlemen?
Come, bring me where they are.

[*Exeunt*]

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as **powerful**.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]