

## ESSAY OUTLINE

### *Introduction*

<p>Hook</p> <p>(quote, question, metaphor, shocking fact/statistic)</p>	<p>How did one assume power ? Who was the legitimate king? , these were common questions that arose during the RENAISSANCE period.</p>
<p>Building sentences</p> <p>(some background/contextual info)</p>	<p>Macbeth is set in the middle ages during which the feudal system was the dominant social system in Europe , when the king was not chosen by hereditary, but it was the one who was seen as the most honourable in society. The sense of honour emphasised in act 1 scene 2 and sets Macbeth up as the next in line to the throne.</p>
<p>Thesis statement</p> <p>(your position on the argument you are presenting)</p>	<p>But his hopes are seemingly destroyed when Duncan announces his own son Macbeth as 'Prince of Cumberland', meaning that he will be next in line to the throne, completely foregoing feudal system of honour being the prime quality for kingship. Moreover, making Duncan's sense of justice questionable.</p>

### *Body paragraph 1*

<p>Topic sentence</p> <p>(introduce what this paragraph is about)</p>	<p>Through the use of the exclamatory sentence "The Prince of Cumberland!" Shakespeare illustrates Macbeth's true feelings of anger and amazement at Duncan.</p>
<p>Supporting sentences</p> <p>(your analytical and contextual evidence)</p>	<p>Honour in the society in those days was the glory and fame one acquired from exceptional or heroic accomplishment and through this definition we can infer that Macbeth was one the most honourable in the society due to act1 scene 2 ; "For brave Macbeth (well he deserves that name), Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel, Which smoked with bloody execution,". Macbeth was the victor of the battle and praised by Duncan who called him his "valiant cousin" depicting him to be the successor according to the feudal system. This is further proved , when the witches say "all hail Macbeth thou shalt be king hereafter" . However, Duncan's decision of making his son the king evidently caused Macbeth to react, seen through the rhyming couplet at the end of act 1 scene 2 , "The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be, Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see."</p>
<p>Concluding sentence(s)</p>	<p>Macbeth feels betrayed by Duncan and at this point decides to rebel against him. Hence , regicide in Macbeth can also be seen as a result of Duncan not respecting the structure of the feudal system, where the most honourable was most deserving to be next in line to the throne.</p>

(final thoughts this paragraph)

### *Body paragraph 2*

Topic sentence

(introduce what this paragraph is about)

The whole play is based on supernatural events and chaos . It can be argued that when Duncan named his son Malcolm to be king he was the one leading Macbeth to his downfall by breaking the natural order of things.

Supporting sentences

(your your analytical and contextual evidence)

When Duncan names Malcolm the king he is unfair and unjust, contrasting the holy king he is described to be through the line "Here lay Duncan, /His silver skin laced with his golden blood". The bright shiny colours that are used as adjectives to describe Duncan's blood and skin make him seem saintly and almost more than a human ( this could be due to the renaissance belief that kings are chosen by god). Though some may say that , Duncans actions can be justified as he proclaims "There's no art To find the mind's construction in the face." , telling us that even though he trusts his "valiant cousin" he still fears betrayal and due to this he chooses his own son to be the successor as he knows him best.

Concluding sentence(s)

(final thoughts this paragraph)

However , Duncan's decision, which questions his sense of justice , increases Macbeth's ambition and greed as he believes he rightfully deserves the throne. ultimately leading Macbeth to commit regicide.

### *Body paragraph 3 (OPTIONAL)*

Topic sentence

(introduce what this paragraph is about)

Supporting sentences

(your your analytical and contextual evidence)

Concluding sentence(s)

(final thoughts this paragraph)

### *Conclusion*

<p>Restated thesis</p> <p>(your position of the argument you are presenting)</p>	<p>In conclusion, it should be noted that despite the mistakes the protagonists make, historically, the tragic plot structure does not simply lay all the blame at the feet of the protagonists. For example, in Renaissance England, Sir Philip Sidney suggested that tragedy is a didactic form that lays bare the corruption that rulers and statesmen may attempt to conceal, while the tragic plot structure has also often been used to criticise the values of the societies in which the protagonists live, such as violence, war (civil war in this case), kingship, extreme masculine ideals and honour</p>
<p>Summary of controlling concept</p> <p>(central theme)</p>	<p>Therefore, although the protagonists must take responsibility for the decisions they make, tragedies encourage us to pity these fallen heroes because they are essentially trapped in a society whose values are almost impossible to attain or live up to. The plot of Macbeth reflects the values of Early Modern Society in which, in the words of Niccolo Machiavelli, 'the highest good to aim for was honour and glory'. This incessant pursuit of honour, which appears to be the root of Macbeth's faults, was reflected in many of the tragedies of the period, where the male characters struggle to live up to their society's standards of masculinity or carried them to the extreme, and so destroy themselves as well as others. Yet, it is these very same extreme masculine values that Duncan and the other thanes praise in Macbeth at the beginning of the play as 'worthy', 'good' and 'valiant', because he defeats the rebel Macdonwald as well as the invading Norwegian army.</p>
<p>Author's purpose</p> <p>(why the author wrote the text)</p>	<p>Duncan's valourising of violence brings us back full circle to the Witches' concluding couplet in act 1, scene 1: 'fair is foul and foul is fair / hover though the fog and filthy air'; the play appears to be a warning not only to individuals but to entire societies to be careful of the values we expound, and to be weary of what we wish for, because the very things we think are worthy, 'good' and 'valiant' may well be the very same things that destroy us.</p>
<p>Final thought</p> <p>(What key idea(s) do we learn?)</p>	<p>Perhaps Shakespeare is implying that it is due to the values of the feudal society that lead Macbeth to his downfall.</p>

**MAKE SURE YOUR ESSAY CONTAINS ALL OF THESE QUALITIES**

Tick these off when you have added them to your essay

- Methods - author's techniques
- Context
- Effects of the author's methods on the audience/reader
- Link to another part of the text - talk about the meaning of the connection
- Symbolism
- Themes
- Author's purpose

## MCELSTA

How did one assume power? Who was the legitimate king? , these were common questions that arose during the RENAISSANCE period. Macbeth is set in the middle ages during which the feudal system was the dominant social system in Europe , when the king was not chosen by hereditary, but it was the one who was seen as the most honourable in society. The sense of honour emphasised in act 1 scene 2 and sets Macbeth up as the next in line to the throne. But his hopes are seemingly destroyed when Duncan announces his own son Malcolm as 'Prince of Cumberland', meaning that he will be next in line to the throne, completely foregoing feudal system of honour being the prime quality for kingship. Moreover, making Duncan's sense of justice questionable.

Through the use of the exclamatory sentence "The Prince of Cumberland!" Shakespeare illustrates Macbeth's true feelings of anger and amazement at Duncan. Honour in the society in those days was the glory and fame one acquired from exceptional or heroic accomplishment and through this definition we can infer that Macbeth was one the most honourable in the society due to act1 scene 2 ; "For brave Macbeth (well he deserves that name), Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel, Which smoked with bloody execution,". Macbeth was the victor of the battle and praised by Duncan who called him his "valiant cousin" depicting him to be the successor according to the feudal system. This is further proved , when the witches say "all hail Macbeth thou shalt be king hereafter" . However, Duncan's decision of making his son the king evidently caused Macbeth to react, seen through the rhyming couplet at the end of act 1 scene 2 , "The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be, Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see." Macbeth feels betrayed by Duncan and at this point decides to rebel against him. Hence , regicide in Macbeth can also be seen as a result of Duncan not respecting the structure of the feudal system, where the most honourable was most deserving to be next in line to the throne.

The whole play is based on supernatural events and chaos . It can be argued that when Duncan named his son Malcolm to be king he was the one leading Macbeth to his downfall by breaking the natural order of things. When Duncan names Malcolm the king he is unfair and unjust, contrasting the holy king he is described to be through the line "Here lay Duncan, /His silver skin laced with his golden blood". The bright shiny colours that are used as adjectives to describe Duncan's blood and skin make him seem saintly and almost more than a human ( this could be due to the renaissance belief that kings are chosen by god). Though some may say that , Duncan's actions can be justified as he proclaims "There's no art To find the mind's construction in the face." , telling us that even though he trusts his "valiant cousin" he still fears betrayal and due to this he chooses his own son to be the successor as he knows him best. However , Duncan's decision, which questions his sense of justice , increases Macbeth's ambition and greed

as he believes he rightfully deserves the throne. ultimately leading Macbeth to commit regicide.

In conclusion, it should be noted that despite the mistakes the protagonists make, historically, the tragic plot structure does not simply lay all the blame at the feet of the protagonists. For example, in Renaissance England, Sir Philip Sidney suggested that tragedy is a didactic form that lays bare the corruption that rulers and statesmen may attempt to conceal, while the tragic plot structure has also often been used to criticise the values of the societies in which the protagonists live, such as violence, war (civil war in this case), kingship, extreme masculine ideals and honour. Therefore, although the protagonists must take responsibility for the decisions they make, tragedies encourage us to pity these fallen heroes because they are essentially trapped in a society whose values are almost impossible to attain or live up to. The plot of Macbeth reflects the values of Early Modern Society in which, in the words of Niccolo Machiavelli, 'the highest good to aim for was honour and glory'. This incessant pursuit of honour, which appears to be the root of Macbeth's faults, was reflected in many of the tragedies of the period, where the male characters struggle to live up to their society's standards of masculinity or carried them to the extreme, and so destroy themselves as well as others. Yet, it is these very same extreme masculine values that Duncan and the other thanes praise in Macbeth at the beginning of the play as 'worthy', 'good' and 'valiant', because he defeats the rebel Macdonwald as well as the invading Norwegian army. Duncan's valourising of violence brings us back full circle to the Witches' concluding couplet in act 1, scene 1: 'fair is foul and foul is fair / hover though the fog and filthy air'; the play appears to be a warning not only to individuals but to entire societies to be careful of the values we expound, and to be weary of what we wish for, because the very things we think are worthy, 'good' and 'valiant' may well be the very same things that destroy us. Perhaps Shakespeare is implying that it is due to the values of the feudal society that lead Macbeth to his downfall.

