Senior Literature

*Macbeth* **Literary Analysis DSPA**

**Focus Options**

1. Is Macbeth a villain or a victim of fate, wife, the supernatural, etc.? Take a position on whether you believe Macbeth was destined to be evil, or whether other things influenced him to become evil. Is he completely evil in all his dealings and relationships, or is there more to him? How does he change throughout the play? What is his tragic flaw? Identify his transition from hero to tyrant. Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support your response.
2. Who is to blame for the deaths of Duncan, Banquo, Macduff’s family, Lady Macbeth, etc.? Is it the witches? Macbeth himself? Lady Macbeth? Fate? Or something else? In a well-written persuasive literary analysis, convince your reader who is to blame for Macbeth’s bloody actions. Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support your response.
3. Explore the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Do they have a good marriage? Are they in love? Are they equal? How does their relationship seem to work? How does it shift over time? How does Macbeth react to Lady Macbeth’s death? What does this reveal about their relationship at this point? Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support your response.
4. Discuss the use of visions and hallucinations in the play. Why do you think Shakespeare included these visual effects? How do these visions and hallucinations help to shape Macbeth’s mind and/or plot events? Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support your response.
5. Compare **AND** Contrast the characters of Macbeth and Macduff. Consider their personalities, relationships, and what motivates each character. Is one man good and the other evil, or are they both good or both evil, as outside influences affect their decisions? What kind of relationships do they have with their families? How are their views on life similar or different? Explain yourself completely. Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support your response.
6. Compare **AND** Contrast the characters of Macbeth and Banquo. Consider the prophecies they were given and how each dealt with them. Is one man good and the other evil, or are they both good or both evil, as outside influences affect their decisions? How are their views on the prophecies and life in general similar or different? Explain yourself completely. Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support your response.
7. Analyze the character of Lady Macbeth. What is her role in Macbeth’s life? How does her role change? Is she an evil human being, or are there other forces that drive her? How does she change? Why? Is she to blame for Macbeth’s demise? Could such a woman exist in today’s society? Would she still be capable of the same power over her husband? Or might she have even more? Explain yourself completely. Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support your response.
8. Discuss any of the motifs of blood, water, sleep, weather/nature, masculinity, light and dark and include an analysis of how the motif contributes to the theme(s) of the play. Explain yourself completely. Be sure to implement 3 examples (Direct Textual Evidence from the original text) to support the use of the motif(s) throughout the play.

**Requirements:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Format: | MLA format, Times/Times New Roman, Size 12 font | Minimum:  Intro with a clearly stated thesis.  3 Body Paragraphs.  Well-developed Conclusion. |
| Voice/ Word Choice: | Academic/ Scholarly voice. | DO NOT USE:  I, me, my, you, your, you’re, a lot, stuff  NO Contractions!  Ex: I’ll, isn’t, don’t, wouldn’t, etc. |
| Submission methods: | Bring PRINTED Paper copy of Final and completed Outlines to Nicolia | |
| **Due date:** |  | |