

Macduff has gone to England to persuade Malcolm, Duncan's eldest son, to return from the safety of England and try to fight Macbeth to reclaim the throne. Macduff promises to be loyal to him, but Malcolm does not trust him. Then a messenger arrives with news that Macduff's wife and children have been killed by order of Macbeth, the tyrant king. When Malcolm realises that Macbeth would not have done this if Macduff was serving him, he agrees to do as Macduff asks. Macduff only has one request – that he should be the one to kill Macbeth in mortal combat, to avenge the deaths of his family and servants.

During the scene Malcolm says that these 12 qualities are needed to be a good king. Copy this table into your books and complete it, giving Macbeth a mark out of 10 for each quality. (Words in italics are taken from Malcolm's speech.)

A Good King		Macbeth
<i>Justice</i>	(fairness)	
<i>Verity</i>	(truthfulness)	
<i>Temperance</i>	(self-control)	
<i>Stableness</i>	(even temper)	
<i>Bounty</i>	(generosity)	
<i>Perseverance</i>		
<i>Mercy</i>		
<i>Lowliness</i>	(humility)	
<i>Devotion</i>	(to God)	
<i>Patience</i>		
<i>Courage</i>		
<i>Fortitude</i>	(strength)	

When you have completed the chart, work out Macbeth's total out of a possible 120.

Write a brief report summing up why you have awarded your total.

Extension Task:

Write a reference for Macbeth stating his suitability for the post of King.