GCSE Coursework Assignment – *Macbeth*

King Duncan’s murder marks the beginning of Macbeth’s downfall. Who can be held mostly responsible for this?

### Introduction

- Introduce the play and the main characters.
- Comment on why the play was written (Chain of being - murder of king leads to chaos. This idea would please James I. Why?)
- Introduce the main characters who can be held mostly to blame for Duncan’s murder.

### Lady Macbeth

- Describe her character and explain how she would not have represented a stereotypical woman in Shakespearian times.
- Explain the dramatic effect of her opening soliloquy on the audience.
- What is her role in Duncan’s murder?
- How does she contribute to Macbeth’s downfall after this?

### The Witches

- Say that the Shakespearian audience would have believed in witches.
- Comment on the dramatic effect of these characters - appearance, characteristics etc.
- What part did they play in Duncan’s murder?
- How did they further contribute to Macbeth’s downfall in Act 4?
- Why do you think they told Macbeth the predictions in the first place?

### Macbeth

- Comment on his character and how it changes throughout the course of the play.
- Consider the following:
  - how he is introduced at the beginning of the play - hero
  - his meeting with the witches
  - Lady Macbeth’s influence on him
  - the murder of Duncan / doubts
  - Banquo
  - revisits witches
  - Macduff’s family
- What makes Macbeth kill Duncan?
- Who influences him?
- To what extent can he be held responsible for a) the murder of Duncan  b) his own downfall?

### Conclusion

- Sum up Macbeth’s fate. Say why you think the play ends like this and who you think is mostly to blame for the murder of Duncan and Macbeth’s downfall.

Now take each in turn and discuss their role in the king’s death: