Who shall hang?

By the end of the play Duncan, Banquo and Macduff’s wife and family are all dead – murdered!

There is to be a trial; Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and the witches will go before a jury. But only one person or group can be punished, the other two have to be released.

Should we hang Macbeth, who murdered Duncan with his own hands, and his own dagger, then hired murderers to kill Banquo and Macduff’s family?

Should we hang Lady Macbeth, who encouraged Macbeth to kill Duncan, and would have killed him herself if he hadn’t looked like her father, but didn’t seem to know about the other murders until after they had happened?

Should we hang the witches, who told Macbeth he would be king, leading him to decide to kill Duncan, told Banquo his children would be kings (which was partly why Macbeth had him killed) and told Macbeth to beware of Macduff?

You have to decide!

Write an essay where you say who you think should be hanged and why the other characters should be released.