

## Section A: Shakespeare

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

Either

### *Macbeth*

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the Captain tells Duncan about Macbeth's part in the recent battle.

#### **CAPTAIN**

Doubtful it stood,  
As two spent swimmers that do cling together  
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonald –  
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that  
5 The multiplying villainies of nature  
Do swarm upon him – from the Western Isles  
Of kerns and galloglasses is supplied,  
And Fortune on his damnèd quarrel smiling,  
Showed like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak,  
10 For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name –  
Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel,  
Which smoked with bloody execution,  
Like Valour's minion carved out his passage  
Till he faced the slave,  
15 Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,  
Till he unseamed him from the nave to th'chaps  
And fixed his head upon our battlements.

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Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this extract
- how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]  
AO4 [4 marks]