

Writing about the BIG IDEAS in 'Macbeth': Violence

This resource has been designed to help you consider the BIG IDEAS explored by Shakespeare in 'Macbeth'. For Assessment Objective 1, you are required to:

Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: • maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response • use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations

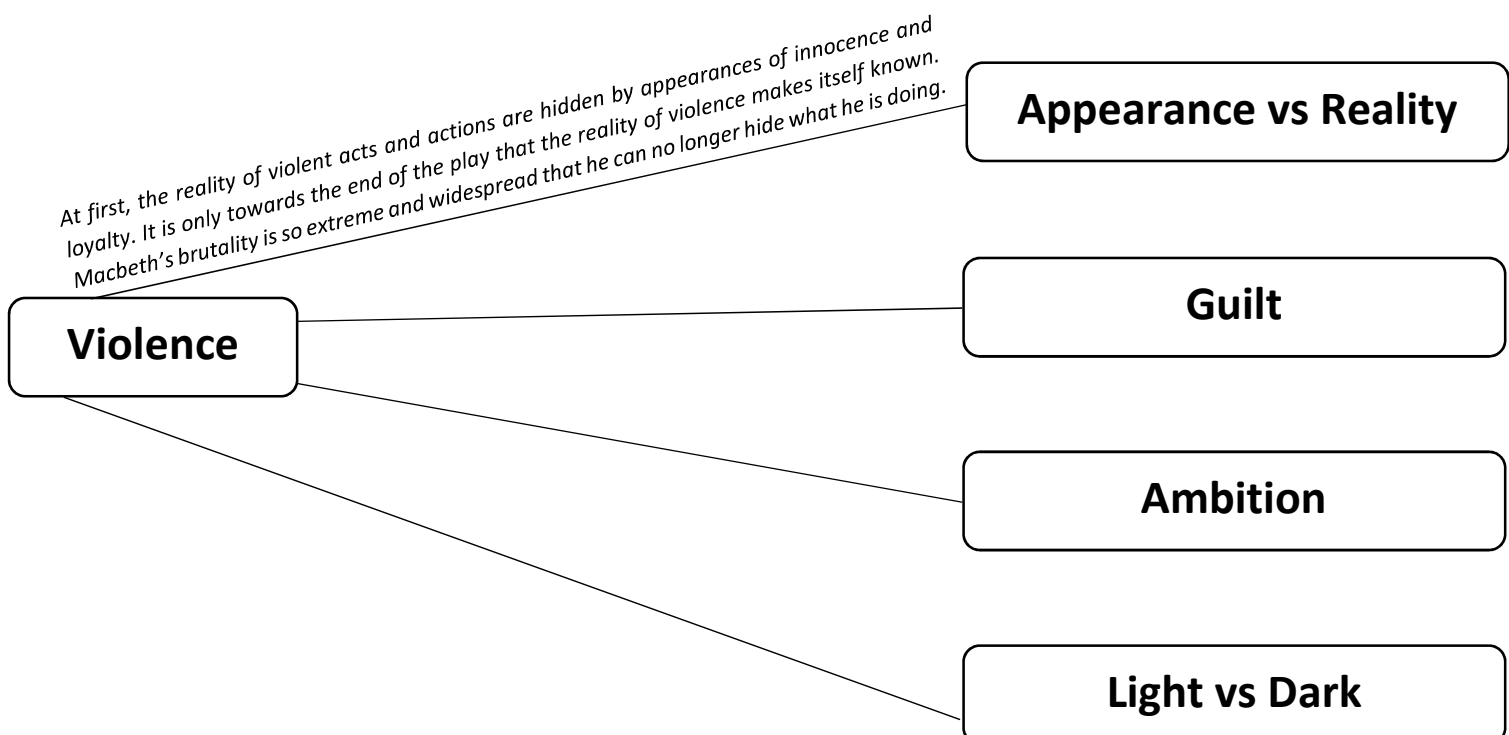
Exploring the BIG IDEAS will help you meet the requirements of this assessment objective. Complete the activities below in as much detail as possible to help you begin to consider how to discuss them in an exam answer.

ACTIVITY 1: Explain where the theme (Big Idea) of violence appears in the play as annotations around the image. Link your answers to events and characters as well as Shakespeare's authorial intent. If you can, include examples from across the play.

Violence



ACTIVITY 2: Consider how Shakespeare connects violence to other 'Big Ideas'/themes explored in the play. Explain in as much detail as possible. One has been done for you.



ACTIVITY 3: Complete the sentence stems that help you answer the following question: **How is violence explored throughout the play?** Try and turn each sentence stem into a full paragraph by exploring your own interpretations of violence. What do certain events, characters and motifs suggest to you? What does Shakespeare want his audiences to understand? Include quotations if you need to, but remember, you do not need to analyse language for AO1.

At the beginning of the play, the Captain hails Macbeth's achievements on the battlefield, insinuating that violence is something that is celebrated in 11th Century Scotland. By doing this, perhaps Shakespeare aims to associate violence with...

By the time Macbeth realises that 'blood will have blood', it is already too late for him to redeem himself. He is stuck in a cyclical existence of brutality. Through the murders of Banquo and Macduff's family, it seems Shakespeare is exposing...

As the play nears its end, past acts of violence haunt the characters who have committed them. Violence, then, becomes something which...

By the end of the play, however, violence is once again celebrated, insinuating that its acceptance depends on who is committing the violent acts and who is on the receiving end of them. The joy in response to Macduff's act of regicide when he kills Macbeth suggests...