

Ravens Wood School

KS4 Curriculum Plan – Year 10



Subject: English

Module: 1 - Macbeth

Overarching Topic:			
<p>Why is this topic being studied at this time?</p> <p>How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?</p>	<p>Macbeth is an exciting hook into the English literature GCSE. It is both challenging and complex but also enjoyable. It is a play that raises more questions than it provides answers. Is Macbeth a hero turned villain? Was he ever really good at all? Is he manipulated and influenced by the people and supernatural forces around him? Or is the power to become a ruthless killer within him from the start? This is a brutal and ruthless time in history and Macbeth is a brilliant reflection of the periods in which it was set and written, but also a harrowing story that explores all kinds of human dilemmas that transcend time.</p> <p>The themes and content that we study will sit alongside questions about freewill, ambition and personal choices that students will often come across in their Citizenship and RE studies, while the elements of British – particularly monarchical- history will explore the uncertainty and unrest associated with the transition from a Tudor-ruled Britain to the Jacobean era as King James VI of Scotland becomes King James I of England.</p> <p>Students have already had a taste of Shakespeare at KS3, through the study of a range of extracts from the various genres, they will be able to bring their knowledge to GCSE, as they deepen their appreciation of literary heritage.</p>		
	Essential	Core	Ambitious
<p>The Big Questions (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the Jacobean period and why was it a significant time in history? • Who are the characters and how do they each play their part in the story? • What are the features of a Shakespearean tragedy? • What are monologues for? What are the key monologues in Macbeth? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are some of the events of the Jacobean period reflected or linked to the themes and issues in Macbeth? • What makes a Shakespearean tragic hero and is this different from conventional ideas about what a hero is? • Is Macbeth a hero? • To what extent is Macbeth a piece of fiction and what aspects of it reflect society in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical theories • Linking Macbeth to other works of literature written at the time. • Was Shakespeare pro-monarchy? • Does Shakespeare present women as a corrupting force? • Are the problems and dilemmas really so different from the kinds we encounter today? How could we relate to these? • Different interpretations and debates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens in Macbeth? 	<p>Shakespeare's time as well as in more ancient Scottish history?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the key quotations we could start to memorise? 	
The Key Skills/ Techniques	The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the critical, core and pinnacle knowledge.		
	Skill/Technique	How will this skill be developed?	
	Inferential / literal comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading of key speeches in the text – distinguishing what is stated explicitly and what is implied. 	
	Critical analysis: evaluating language, form and structure using literary terminology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close reading of the text. • Detailed explanations of what language, form and structure are and how they affect the reading of the play. • List of literary terminology with targeted words where appropriate. • Practice questions with feedback. 	