

## **Macbeth**

Read the following question from Act 4 scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Macbeth has revisited the witches who have shown him three apparitions about his future.

**MACBETH** Time, thou anticipatest my dread exploits:  
The flighty purpose never is o'ertook  
Unless the deed go with it; from this moment  
The very firstlings of my heart shall be  
The firstlings of my hand. And even now,  
To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and  
done:  
The castle of Macduff I will surprise; 150  
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o' the sword  
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls  
That trace him in his line. No boasting like a fool;  
This deed I'll do before this purpose cool.  
But no more sights!--Where are these gentlemen?  
Come, bring me where they are.

**[Exeunt]**

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as **powerful**.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.

**[30 marks]**  
**AO4 [4 marks]**