

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Lady Macbeth is speaking. She has just received the news that King Duncan will be spending the night at her castle.

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| | The raven himself is hoarse |
| | That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan |
| | Under my battlements. Come, you spirits |
| | That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, |
| 5 | And fill me from the crown to the toe topfull |
| | Of direst cruelty; make thick my blood, |
| | Stop up th'access and passage to remorse |
| | That no compunctious visitings of nature |
| | Shake my fell purpose nor keep peace between |
| 10 | Th'effect and it. Come to my woman's breasts, |
| | And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers, |
| | Wherever in your sightless substances |
| | You wait on nature's mischief. Come, thick night, |
| | And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell, |
| 15 | That my keen knife see not the wound it makes |
| | Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark, |
| | To cry 'Hold, hold!' |

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

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]