

Question 1 - Script 1A continued

Explore the importance of guilt elsewhere in the play.

b. ~~Guilt is a key theme in Macbeth as it serves as a warning to the Jacobean audience that as far as actions have consequences.~~

Guilt in the play is ~~shown firstly~~ presented firstly as Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's inability to sleep. After Duncan's murder, they have 'terrible dreams' that shake them nightly. Macbeth even hears voices which say 'Macbeth does murder sleep'; sleep, having connotations of childlike innocence, is ~~murdered~~ slaughtered, leaving Macbeth sinful and without value. Furthermore, this lack of sleep mirrors the ~~we~~ weird sisters' & curses on the sailor to make him 'dry as hay', further relating linking the witches' and Macbeth's fate. Such a lack of sleep is a sign to the Jacobean audience that defying nature through the disruption of the Divine Right of Kings has painful consequences.

social/
historical
context

The continued use of hallucinations through out the play also represents the guilt-burdened minds of Macbeth and his wife. The motif of blood which is stained onto the hands of firstly Macbeth, then later Lady Macbeth, represents the blood soaked minds of the two murderers and how their sanity will be forever steeped in the blood of those they've capriciously killed. Furthermore, the vision of Banquo represents a whole other level of betrayal; the murder of a best friend and blood brother. Guilt not only comes in the decision to have

Question 1 - Script 1A continued

Banquo murdered for Macbeth, but there is also guilt for a constant nagging guilt for the murder of Duncan. It is extremely profound that it's Banquo's ghost who haunts Macbeth as he represents a path that Macbeth chose not to emulate - a path where his prophecies were self-fulfilling and without mortal sacrifice. However, we are left to determine as an audience if these hallucinations are guilt-motivated or brought about supernaturally by the witches. **Such supernatural power were a real threat during the time of James I, where witches were hunted and killed mercilessly mercilessly.**

social +
historical
context

However, guilt is not only seen in the sinful of Macbeth, but also in **the archetype of the avenging hero, Macduff.** The ghost of He has tremendous guilt about his escape to England saying 'my wife's and children's ghosts haunt me still', suggesting the immense pain he feels over the loss of his family which could've in fact been stopped had he been there to protect them. It is in such guilt that we are able to contrast Macduff and Macbeth; as the play progresses Macbeth becomes unfeeling and is motivated solely by his **thirst for ambition**, whereas Macduff **only feels** for his wife family and his country. **guilt for the collapse of his family and country.**

literary
context

The guilt of such murders by Macbeth and

Question 1 - Script 1A continued

Lady Macbeth is dealt with in dramatically different ways, causing a shift in their relationship's dynamic. Macbeth grows out of his guilt and begins acting recklessly to spite those who stand against him. His guilt is ignored for his want of power; ~~once~~ at one point his mind was full of 'scorpions', a very vivid image of seething guilt which is contrasted with his unfeeling self at the end of the play where he drives himself to destruction. ***

In contrast Lady Macbeth begins their plot with no reservations and ~~infact~~, in fact, mocks ~~in~~ her husband for his cowardice. She is the moral reinforcement Macbeth craves in order to not be consumed by his guilt, ~~saying encouraging~~ encouraging his bloody actions with phrases like 'what's done is done'. However, guilt soon rots her mind and her earlier dialogue is later contrasted with 'what's done cannot be undone', suggesting a ~~ret~~ want to go back and change her actions; such is an example of guilt leading to regret, of which Macbeth ~~has~~ has none.

*** through his dastardly actions, ~~he~~ ~~through his~~ unpurged by his wife as unlike before his need for his wife to be 'innocent of the knowledge' shows his mental growth and that he no longer requires moral support for his guilt.

