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91098



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 English 2025

91098 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied written text(s) perceptively, supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Excellence

TOTAL 08

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WRITTEN TEXTS



Remember that this is the **written texts** essay



and **NOT** the visual / oral texts essay!

INSTRUCTIONS

Write an essay on at least ONE **written text** that you have studied, in response to ONE of the questions below.

QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

1. Analyse how the text was crafted to encourage you to care about an idea.
"Idea" may refer to character, theme, or setting.
2. Analyse how the structure of the text helped unpack an important theme.
"Structure" may refer to the order, organisation, or conventions of a text.
3. Analyse how language features deepened your understanding on an issue.
4. Analyse how contrast was essential to expose two sides of a character.
5. Analyse how the author taught you that life is complex.
6. Analyse how one event triggered something of great consequence.
7. Analyse how the setting influenced one or more characters.
"Setting" may refer to physical places as well as social and historical contexts.
8. Analyse how language features were crucial to revealing your understanding of one or more characters.

TEXT DETAILS

Written text type	<input type="text" value="Drama"/>	Written text type	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text" value="Macbeth"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
Author	<input type="text" value="Shakespeare"/>	Author	<input type="text"/>

SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

Analyse how the text was crafted to encourage you to care about an idea.
"Idea" may refer to character, theme, or setting.

PLANNING

ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 750–800 words. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

Support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

B *I* U

In Shakespeare's Macbeth, Shakespeare carefully uses soliloquy, metaphorical language, contrast and tone to reveals how ambition and chasing our desires without ethical restraint, reinforces the idea that justifying wrong choices because we believe it's "meant to be" only leads to ethical demise and corruption of oneself and others. He uses the character Macbeth to make us care about the consequences of hiding our ambitions behind fate and justifying immoral choices because we feel entitled to something that was promised to us. Shakespeare's message is relevant in society as we humans live in a world that glorifies success, ego and control.

In the beginning of the play, Macbeth was given a prophecy by three powerful witches; divine beings that planted the seed of entitlement into Macbeth's mind with the prospect of becoming something greater than he was. "All Hail Macbeth! Hail to Thee, Thane of Glamis! All Hail Macbeth! Hail to Thee, Thane of Cawdor! All Hail Macbeth! That shalt be King hereafter." Shakespeare uses the tricolon of 'Thane of Glamis', 'Thane of Cawdor' and 'King' to make the audience and Macbeth feel a sense of inevitability for the upwards progression in Macbeth's status. In doing this, and by using the anaphora of 'All Hail', which feeds into Macbeth's ego as he feels as though he is someone destined for importance, Macbeth calcifies the delusion that kingship is owed to him by the divine promise of the prophecy. This moment in the play is what incites his ambitious entitlement towards pursuing more power, simply because he felt as though it was owed to him. This is only reinforced further as we see two out of the three titles come true almost immediately after receiving the prophecy. As soon as Macbeth accepts that his kingship is fated, it begins the start of the loss of his moral composure. It also highlights Shakespeare's warning: the prophecy never made Macbeth act, it only tempted him to, and this temptation was something he felt he was justified to have, giving him that sense of entitlement. This is shown with his later quote: "If Fate will have me King, why, chance may crown me without my stir." Shakespeare uses tone in particular to convey Macbeth's passive entitlement. Even though Macbeth appears patient with this, with this soliloquy the audience is able to notice that Macbeth is still set on the incredible notion that he will become King. "Without my stir" foreshadows his eventual moral collapse and internal conflict that happens later on, and shows external validation: his entitlement began the second he accepted the prophecy as inevitable, and because of this, his downfall began. Across history, we've seen people of all walks of life use violence, oppression, religion and ideological "fate" to justify their wrongdoing and choices, all because they believe something is "meant to be". Shakespeare aims to teach the audience that there is real ignorance in that belief and that so many of us fail in life because we justify our immoral actions because we believe we can escape the consequences. It's put down to human complacency and our lack of accountability for ourselves. Through this beginning, with the prophecy, and Macbeth's deterioration afterward, Shakespeare encourages us to reconsider how much of our lives are externally "fated" and how much of it has been up to the mark of our conscious decisions.

The play progresses so that before Shakespeare murders King Duncan, the audience is shown the fickleness of morality and how humanity has great weakness in succumbing to temptation and displaying hubris. With the quote "My thought whose murder yet is but fantastical shakes so my single state of man" we are given a shocking revelation. Shakespeare uses soliloquy in this quote to draw the audience into Macbeth's inner turmoil, making it personal and confronting, which helps the audience gain an new insight into Macbeth's awareness. Macbeth acknowledges what murdering King Duncan could do to him - guilt, paranoia, mental and moral destruction - but his desire and ambition that he has overrules any ethical judgement. "Single state of man" refers to his whole being, his whole identity being threatened by what would happened if he chose to give in to his desires, and yet he seems to have a detachment to himself. The reader can imply that his desire far outweighs his moral reasoning, as later on he changes from passive to active in his choices. Shakespeare highlights the idea through Macbeth's soliloquy that if something is destined for us, our actions to get there are excusable, and how justification begins internally. Macbeth's initial battle within himself shows the audience that he

has moral conscience, yet the entitlement invoked in him by the prophecy is making him justify that the reason he is having such thoughts - especially such ones of murder - must be because it is aligned with his path to fulfill his fated destiny. This is a warning to audiences as often we cannot see how making excuses for ourselves leads to outward consequences. So often in life we make excuses for ourselves and one of the things Shakespeare notes is our lack of accountability. Later on he remarks: "I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, only vaulting ambition which o'er leaps itself and falls on the other." The exaggerated personification of ambition in Macbeth's soliloquy is used in a way by Shakespeare to help the audience gain insight into how Macbeth has painted ambition as something that is too powerful and too compelling for him to be able to stop himself, leading into the idea that he will make more excuses for his actions. Macbeth acknowledges that ambition is his only drive, with the horse jumping too far reflecting the overreaching and dangerous nature of his ambition. This not only creates an intense feeling for the audience that ambition is something that Macbeth cannot control, but also foreshadows Macbeth's inevitable downfall as the horse leaps too far and falls. This links to how we as humans believe that if we want something enough, that it is fated for us. This creates delusion in the sense that if we hold our actions to that, we justify them because we believe it's all going towards that one thing. Macbeth shrugs off accountability and hides his building ambition behind the shield of fate as to make an excuse for his actions. Shakespeare warns of the dangers of lacking accountability, especially within ourselves as it can be so easy to hold someone else accountable, but extremely difficult for us as humans to push ego, potential success and status aside, especially because that is so relevant in today's world.

The stark contrast between loyal soldier to tyrannical ruler is used by Shakespeare to illustrate how self-justification for immoral actions and entitlement to "owed" success, power or title, twists our morality and destroys ourselves. "Come fate, into the list, and champion me to the utterance." This is the moment in the play, after Macbeth kills King Duncan, where the audience sees the shift in Macbeth and how he has transformed entirely, leaving behind whatever else remained of his old self. The prophecy nurtured his entitlement before, but now he isn't hiding behind the smokescreen of fate, and entitlement has completely overcome him, turning reason to recklessness and losing all sense of moral composure. With the metaphorical use of Macbeth challenging fate in an arena, and allowing the audience to see how Macbeth now views fate as a combative opponent, we are forced to face the realization that Macbeth has taken his entitlement too far. And that so can we. He believes himself to be more powerful than fate because of the previous destiny that fueled his ego, he thinks of himself so highly. This shows irony in ambition: in Macbeth's pursuit to try and control fate, he lost control of himself. Shakespeare teaches us a valuable lesson with this: No man who pursues power is coming from a place of selflessness. We see this in modern society in politics, corporations and leadership. Humans prioritize personal gain over ethical reason and without empathy for others. In this rapidly-evolving world, it's only getting worse, as now the media is feeding younger and younger generations content like "do it for yourself", "self success is the most important thing" and "manifest your success". Ego, success and control are the three human weaknesses in this world, because we as humans are so susceptible to temptation. Macbeth, in particular, was used by Shakespeare as an example to us to make us see how even the most conscientious man can be tempted to act on his ambition and gain a sense of entitlement that forfeits morality and integrity, and how the holder of power is always morally diminished.

Shakespeare's use of soliloquy, contrast, tone and metaphorical language is so that the audience can see how ambition and temptation when acted on in the presence of external validation (like Macbeth and his prophecy which made him think he had divine right to act however he wanted) and this idea that something is "fated" or "meant to be", leads to self-destruction. Holding ourselves accountable and making rational decisions about how we go about dealing with our deepest desire is how we can make sure we don't end up like Macbeth. Shakespeare shows that the true tragedy doesn't lie in destiny, but in the idea that we cannot escape it. Through Macbeth's moral compromise over the course of the play, with the deterioration of himself and the corruption of his ambition, Shakespeare shows how it's not fate deciding for us, it's our active choices and ethical consideration for others that determine the consequences.

Excellence

Subject: English

Standard: 91098

Total score: 08

Grade score	Marker commentary
E8	The essay demonstrates strong ownership and a perceptive, original interpretation of the text, engaging thoughtfully with alternative ideas rather than simply stating points. It provides a convincing analysis of language features and structure, clearly showing how these are deliberately crafted for effect. The argument is precise, sustained, and well supported with specific evidence, demonstrating confident control of the question and resulting in an insightful and engaging discussion.