

Epreuve écrite

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2013

Section: A

Branche: Anglais – textes connus

Numéro d'ordre du candidat

Part I: Comprehension – *Macbeth*

5 Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee: –
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressèd brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
10 Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use. –
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
15 Which was not so before. – There's no such thing.
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. – Now o'er the one half world
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtained sleep: witchcraft celebrates
20 Pale Hecate's offerings; and withered Murder,
Alarumed by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. – Thou sure and firm-set earth,
25 Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my where-about,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.
30 I go, and it is done: the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

[264 words]

Answer the following questions on the excerpt from *Macbeth*. If necessary, support your points with references to the play.

- 1) Situate this extract within its context in the play. [4 marks]
 - 2) Show how the last remnants for an honourable Macbeth die in this speech. [9 marks]
 - 3) How does this speech make use of the imagery of light and darkness? [9 marks]
 - 4) In how far does the knell also toll for Macbeth? [8 marks]
- [30 marks]

Part II: Development Essay – *The Handmaid's Tale*

Choose one of the following topics. Write a balanced argumentative essay of 300 to 400 words. Indicate the number of words you have used. Do not include quotations in your wordcount.

Either

- 1) In Gilead everyone breaks the rules in order to cope with the inhuman oppressiveness of the regime. Discuss.

Or

- 2) '*The Handmaid's Tale* illustrates the lack of female solidarity as contributing to the failed feminist revolution and supporting the subsequent backlash of the religious right.' [Alanna A. Callaway] Discuss.

[30 marks]

End of Exam