

**Edexcel** – Shakespeare *Macbeth*

You should spend about 55 minutes on this section.

You should divide your time equally between parts (a) and (b) of the question.

From Act 3, scene 1 lines 51-73

In this extract Macbeth expresses his thoughts now he is King.

**MACBETH**

To be thus is nothing;  
But to be safely thus.--Our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature  
Reigns that which would be fear'd: 'tis much he dares;  
And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,  
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour  
To act in safety. There is none but he  
Whose being I do fear: and, under him,  
My Genius is rebuked; as, it is said,  
Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters  
When first they put the name of king upon me,  
And bade them speak to him: then prophet-like  
They hail'd him father to a line of kings:  
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,  
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,  
No son of mine succeeding. If 't be so,  
For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind;  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;  
Put rancours in the vessel of my peace  
Only for them; and mine eternal jewel  
Given to the common enemy of man,  
To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!

- a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Macbeth as feeling worried about his situation in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

20 marks

- b) In this extract there is a strong sense of distrust.

Explain the importance of distrust elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how the distrust is shown;
- the reasons for the distrust.

20 marks