

Candidate 3 evidence

Specimen question paper

Section 1

Question 1 - Macbeth

William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' has many moments of different changes in mood and atmosphere within the text. In this essay, I will detail four of these moments and how I would use directorial concepts to highlight this.

The first moment that communicates a change in mood comes from Act 1 scene 3 in which the three weird sisters explain to Macbeth of his positive future and inheritance, however, this will also be the catalyst of what causes Macbeth to lose his mind. The third witch tells him:

'All hail Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter.'

This moment shows a change in mood and atmosphere as the appearance of the witches brings an eerie and uncomfortable mood that is felt by both Banquo and Macbeth due to the weird nature of the witches and their prophecy, whereas before the atmosphere was quieter as Macbeth and Banquo felt a feeling of relief as the war is over and they can finally rest. Here, while the witches' prophecy for Macbeth is at first seen as a positive fortune, it proves to be the very thing that causes his downfall, causing him to spiral into intense guilt and paranoia as he fears that his own success will be taken from him like he did to King Duncan.

When directing this scene, I would direct the actors playing Macbeth and Banquo to stand downstage centre together, away from the witches standing upstage left, however, I would direct the witches to slowly walk toward Macbeth and Banquo more and more as they tell them of their fortunes (specifically Macbeth's) as this would demonstrate symbolism of how Macbeth's future is fastly approaching him and is unavoidable. I would also direct the witches to raise their voices gradually throughout the scene, so that when the third witch delivers her line she does so at a loud volume. I would also direct Macbeth and Banquo to walk backwards with a careful and slow gait, to downstage left so that it's obvious they are trying to separate themselves from the witches and get as far away from them as possible, while still not running away, showing they're still intrigued by them but are cautious. I would also direct the actor playing Macbeth to have a confused facial expression showing him trying to understand and come to terms with the extreme responsibility he is going to inherit. I would direct the actor playing Banquo to have

a fearful facial expression, showing how he's not only afraid of the witches, but of the prophecy too, and the implication of what Macbeth would have to do to fill Duncan's role as king. This would demonstrate to my audience the change in mood and atmosphere by showing how Macbeth and Banquo become scared and uncomfortable when they see the witches, showing the eerie mood also through the witches' increased volume which would also make the audience feel a level of fear as well.

The second moment that shows a change in mood and atmosphere comes from Act 2 Scene 2 in which Macbeth grapples with the guilt of just having killed Duncan and the pressure Lady Macbeth puts on him to feel no remorse. When detailing the incident, Macbeth describes his reaction to the event and says:

“Still it cried “Sleep no more!” to all the house.
“Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore
Cawdor
Shall sleep no more. Macbeth shall sleep no more.”

This moment shows a change in mood and atmosphere as it starts with a mood of nervous excitement and anticipation from Lady Macbeth as she is the only one on stage when the scene starts, and she says that she's waiting for her to be next to the throne with Macbeth after he does the deed of killing Duncan. The mood however shifts when Macbeth enters the room and details the horror of the crime, the mood shifts to a feeling of guilt and trauma, as Macbeth carries the weight of the crime he's committed and cannot stop imagining and remembering the moment. Macbeth also repeats the dialogue which makes it clear to the audience that he's slowly starting to realise the severity of what he's done.

When directing this moment I would direct the costume designer to highlight the change in mood and atmosphere by placing Macbeth in a white silk Houppelande which is an outer garment with flared sleeves worn by men. I would also have this garment splattered with stage blood in the centre front of it that would be made of cornflour, glucose syrup and red food colouring. This would be applied on with a paint brush and flicked onto the garment. This would highlight the change in mood and atmosphere as Macbeth's entrance with his white garment covered in blood shows that the scene is shifted to a more real and serious tone, and it also symbolises how Macbeth is marked by his crime and will forever face the consequences of his actions that haunt him. This would communicate how quickly Macbeth is already feeling the effects of his actions and how he will forever.

The third moment that shows a change in mood and atmosphere comes from act 3 scene 4 during the banquet scene where Macbeth is haunted by the ghost of Banquo in front of his guests. Macbeth says to Banquo's ghost:

“Avaunt, and quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee.
Thy bones are marrowless; thy blood is cold;
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes
Which thou dost glare with.”

The scene shifts from a seemingly normal banquet to one of escalating tension with a fearful mood and panic from Macbeth as none of the other guests can see what he sees, and he can't get the image of Banquo out of his mind. Macbeth pleads with Banquo to leave his head as he feels overwhelmed with guilt and shame for what he did to Banquo so that he could fulfill the prophecy the witches gave him in stopping Banquo's children from being king. This also demonstrates Macbeth's strong feelings of regret and his inability to follow through with difficult decisions, which is further emphasised by Lady Macbeth who is constantly pushing him to do more and protect his future any way he can.

When directing this scene, I would highlight the change in mood and atmosphere by directing the sound designer to play the prerecorded music of Beethoven's Symphony No.5 throughout the scene to show the crescendo in emotions and feelings from Macbeth becoming more panicked by Banquo's presence. This would show the growing anxiety that Macbeth feels but also the heightened confusion felt by his peers and Lady Macbeth as they start to feel his insanity. This would communicate to the audience the change in mood and atmosphere by showing the rising tension and Macbeth's descent into madness.

The fourth moment that shows a change in mood and atmosphere is Act 5 Scene 1 where Lady Macbeth talks in her sleep as a doctor and a gentlewoman in waiting see her talking in great detail about the murders. She says:

“Wash your hands. Put on your nightgown.
Look not so pale. I tell you yet again, Banquo's
buried; he cannot come out of 's grave”

This moment details a mood shift from the previous scenes of ambition and power as Macduff swears to avenge his family against Macbeth, to this scene which shows the mood of extreme guilt and foreshadows impending doom. Lady Macbeth speaks the thoughts she had after Banquo's death, what she was telling Macbeth and herself. This is pivotal for Lady Macbeth's character as it also shows her guilt-stricken side that is not shown before to the audience as she tries to hold herself

as an ambitious and merciless leader in front of Macbeth and others. Lady Macbeth only reveals her true thoughts when she believes no one is watching or listening to her, while she sleeps, because she can't hold in her strong feelings over her guilt anymore, causing her to relive the moment itself and trying to tell herself to move on from it to calm herself down, showing the uneasy and anxious nature of the scene that's full of regret and guilt.

When directing this moment, I would highlight this extreme anxiety and guilt by directing the lighting designer to use a red LED profile spot at a high intensity lighting Lady Macbeth wringing her hands centre stage. This would show Lady Macbeth's guilt as the strength of her regret feels overwhelming like it's consuming her, red is a vibrant colour that symbolises many things like passion, love, but also violence and blood. This would also show how Lady Macbeth did everything out of love for Macbeth, convincing Macbeth to fulfill the prophecy by any means necessary, and shows the strength of the passion she has for him. It would also symbolise how she's haunted by the violence of what she's done and the impact the trauma is having on her. The profile spot would be the only light shown on the stage, the doctor and gentlewoman would be in darkness to bring all the attention to Lady Macbeth and to show how consuming her feelings are. This would also show how she feels she is completely alone as she sleeps in the darkness, showing why she feels comfortable saying what she says in the first place. This would communicate the guilty and anxious mood of the scene as it would show to the audience how consumed and trapped she is in her own feelings of remorse and regret for pushing to have Banquo killed and involving her husband in the process when all she wanted for him was success.

In this essay I have described four key moments that show a change in mood and atmosphere and how I would use directing concepts to highlight these moments.

Section 2

Question 8 – Same Team

In this essay I will be discussing the production of 'Same Team', a street soccer story which follows the lives of the female football players representing Scotland at the Homeless World Cup. This was performed at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh in August 2024. I will be focussing on how the production communicates the social context to the audience and analyse how it helps the audience to understand it.

In the beginning of the show Sammy delivers a monologue about the stress she undergoes as a single mother, living in poverty. In this moment, the actor uses direct address with the audience. She uses a large, pointing, shaky gesture before throwing her hands up in the hair and letting out a loud sigh, communicating her frustration and difficulty looking after her kids. She uses closed body language by hunching her shoulders, creating a low posture portraying her low self-esteem and insecurity. She uses an exasperated, frustrated tone of voice with the addition of intonation, and a high pitch to show how she is trying to reason with her children but is having difficulty doing so. She uses a mannerism of pulling her sleeve over her hand, which could communicate her anxiety, but could also give insight into the social context that she is cold, and unable to heat her home. This communicates the social context of living in the current economical climate within the cost-of-living crisis which really resonates with the audience as it is such a present-day, topical issue. This educates us on her home-life and offers an insight into her behaviour. She is regularly late to training and we, along with her teammates feel anger towards her for this because she is letting the team down and making them fall behind. However, after learning about her background our feelings towards her change as we feel sympathy towards her as she is trying her best to not only provide for her kids, but to be the best teammate possible. This is increasingly common in the current climate with rising energy prices, and this communicates this to the audience and how much of an impact poverty has on a household.

The director uses a flashback in the show, which takes us back to the moment when Bee is released from prison and meets Noor outside on a park bench. Bee questions Noor on what her life is like as she remembers her from before prison. Noor is reluctant to take a seat next to Bee due to her seemingly intimidating nature and uses indirect eye contact when speaking to her and distant proxemics. Noor gestures by folding her arms and uses a fearful tone of voice. She is directed to stand right at the side of the stage, leaving Bee sat in the middle on the bench creating an obvious gap between them. This communicates the social issue of the belief that those who commit crime cannot rehabilitate, and that Noor is scared that Bee is no different from when she committed her violent crime. As the scene progresses, Bee notices Noors anxiousness and changes her voice to make her feel

more comfortable. She uses a slower pace, with some humorous jokes, and a comforting tone to put Noor at ease. This attracts Noor over to Bee, closing the proxemics and Noor begins to use direct eye contact, and sits down next to Bee. They begin to chat about their time at school, and the fun memories they remember. Noor communicates that she now feels comfortable with Bee, despite her initial hesitation, through regular smirks, laughs, and using a much louder, more confident, enthusiastic tone of voice. In this moment the audience feel happy for them both, as despite their struggles they are able to reminisce and laugh together about it. Through their conversations about their upbringing, this moment effectively gives context on the social issue of poverty. This moment shows us two different personas that have been created because of poverty. Bee, who has become violent and imprisoned; and Noor, who is shy, quiet and lacking confidence. Both have been failed by the system, and as a result have ended up in different, but equally sad situations. Neither of them feel they are worth anything to anybody and that's why this moment really resonates with the audience as they have stumbled across each other again, and have realised how comfortable they feel with each other. The moment ends with Bee inviting Noor to the Change Centre, a community project aimed at supporting young, vulnerable people. This leaves the audience feeling proud of Noor for taking up Bee's offer after she was so apprehensive, and they also feel happy towards Bee for taking the chance and inviting her to a place the audience have already seen has benefited them both in so many different ways.

Further into the play, Joe finds herself outside a pub after an argument with her teammates. She is a recovering alcoholic, and seeing this pub brings her a wave of emotions. She walks across the stage at a fast pace with large swinging gestures with her arms communicating a fast, angry release of emotions and her motivation to get as far away from the argument as possible. She then suddenly stops and leans against the wall with closed body language, by leaning one foot against the wall and looking down at the ground. As she talks about her upbringing, and her reasons for her alcoholic addiction, she uses a slow paced, upset tone of voice, with frequent pauses and disappointed facial expressions communicating her upset and ashamed feelings. She uses mannerisms by fidgeting with her hands, conveying how stressed she feels, and how deeply she wants to relapse, and uses loud deep breaths as she tried to control her feelings, and calm herself down. The director uses lighting to enhance this scene and ensure the communication of the social context in this moment is stronger. As Joe is pacing around, the director directs the stage to be lit with a general flood, with blue gels to symbolise her sad emotions. As she delivers her monologue, the director directs the lighting to fade to a white profile spotlight, around an intensity of 6, to ensure the audience are fully focussed on her, her thoughts, and her feelings. As she breaks down at the end of her monologue, the director directs the lights to fade down slowly, to leave a lasting impact and allow time for the audience to consider what they have just heard. This moment effectively communicates the social context of alcoholism, and the risks of relapsing, but also the reasons and causes for developing an addiction. We learn from Joe that she was in care from a young age, and was never in the same place for a long period of time. She was incredibly stressed, lonely, and isolated and

turned to alcohol in order to deal with her life and make herself feel better. Alcoholism is often seen as a negative, avoidable thing which is looked down upon. However, through this monologue we are given context to why she has this addiction, and we feel sympathy towards her for growing up in such a tough environment. However, we also feel admiration for her for working so hard to get clean as she educates us on the commitment and difficulties it takes to get clean. As an audience, hearing this context towards such a difficult, not understood issue we feel nervous for Joe on whether she is going to relapse or not as we don't want her to reverse all the progress she has made. This moment effectively communicates the social context of alcoholism and educates us on the issue that so many face.

In conclusion, the production of *Same Team* exhibits many social issues found in the modern day including single parenting, poverty, and alcoholism. These issues resonate with the audience, especially due to the current climate, and acting and directing are used effectively to highlight the context of these issues. We learn each character's background, and this presents not only an insight into their life, but a wider lesson into each of the social issues. Not only is this play an entertaining one, but it is also immensely educational and offers a lasting impact on the audience who are left considering how difficult those most vulnerable in society's lives are, and that perhaps we should be more sympathetic to those struggling most.