Candidate 5 evidence

Section 2

1) "Macbeth", by William Shakespeare, is a play in which a major character, Macbeth, actions influence the emotions of others. Macbeth struggles throughout the play battling his conscience and also his vaulting ambition. Macbeth is at first held back by his conscience however soon his ambition gets too much and he is soon committed to the path of evil. It is this vaulting ambition which has a great impact on the emotions of other characters such as Lady Macbeth and Macduff. His ambition causes him to change as a character and therefore he ends up upsetting and hurting others.

To understand how ambition changes Macbeth and the way he acts we must look at how Shakespeare characterises him at the beginning of the play. Macbeth is first introduced as a
warrior who has just won a battle, which suggests that he is good at fighting. He is described as "brave Macbeth" which shows he does not fear anything and is "noble" in nature. Macbeth is a warrior who once ripped a man from the "nave" to "chaps" which highlights that he does have a violent nature however he puts it to good use to fight for his country. His violence is channelled correctly. It is not until the witches appear that Macbeth begins to change in character. The witches' prophecies put ideas into Macbeth's head which leave him considering evil and murderous thoughts. Macbeth does have a desire to be King and his idea to kill the King to gain the throne is only a thought at this point. His conscience holds him back from fulfilling his ambitions and therefore decides that he will "proceed no further in this business."
However when Lady Macbeth hears that he is no longer going through with it, she is angry with him. Since Macbeth suggested killing Duncan that has been her main thought as she too also wants power. Lady Macbeth manipulates Macbeth and plays with his emotions in order to get what she wants. Lady Macbeth is shown to be a much stronger character than Macbeth which is unusual for Jacobean times. In succeeding her manipulation, Macbeth is now "settled" with the idea.

The murder of Duncan is the turning point within the play as it brings the downfall of both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Although Macbeth secures his position as King, he is not safe as there are dangers such as Banquo and his sons. Macbeth is now becoming distant from his wife and begins
to plot the murder of Banquo on his own.
The murder of Banquo has a great impact on Macbeth as it sees him lose his mind in front of many lords and thanes during the Banquet Scene. The fact Macbeth hallucinates and admits his guilt changes the lords opinions of him, he is no longer "noble" and "brave".

The lords and thanes, including Macduff, now have a different view on Macbeth now that they know he killed their King for his own good. Macbeth's ambition gets so overpowering that he even kills Macduff's innocent wife and children. This shows the corrupted nature of his ambition as he is willing to kill anybody to save himself and not get caught. Macduff sets out to kill Macbeth for his cruel and evil actions driven by ambition. Lady Macbeth turns out to not be so strong as she begins to lose her mind.
and become depressed due to the guilt.

Macbeth does not support his wife like she did with him, instead he does not care.

This shows that his ambition has even come between his relationship. Macbeth’s ambition is ultimately the cause of his death as he got so greedy over power that he did not care who he hurt in order to sustain the throne.

"Macbeth" is a play in which the little character’s actions influence the emotions of others. Macbeth’s action of killing Duncan ultimately drove his wife insane as she could not handle the guilt like he did. The fact that Macbeth did not care about the emotions of others shows how destructive the force of ambition can be if left unchecked.