

# MACBETH FLASH CARDS



**REVISION  
HOMEWORK  
PREPARATION**

# How to revise

Revision aims to store information in your long term memory. The best way to do this is to bring information back into your short term memory. The more you do this, the easier it is to remember it when you need it.

In short: quizzing is king.

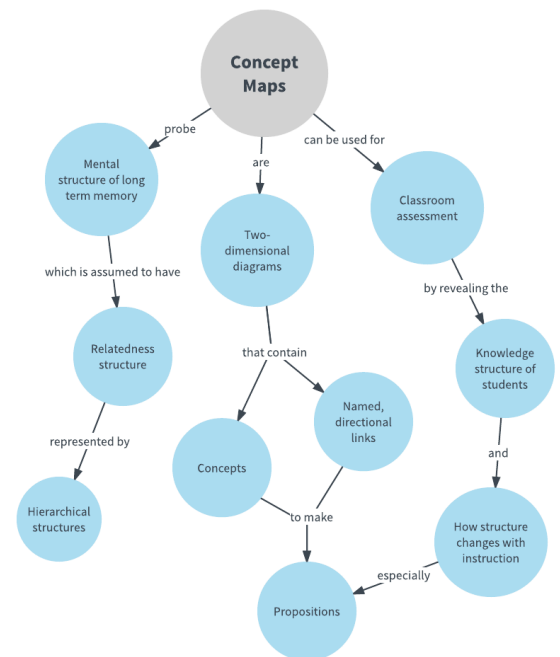
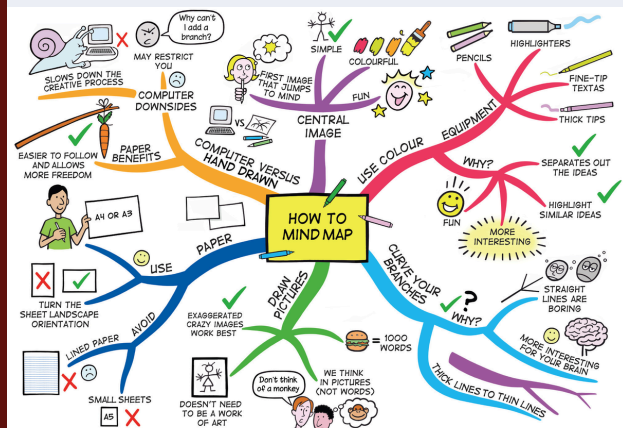
This guide has several goals:

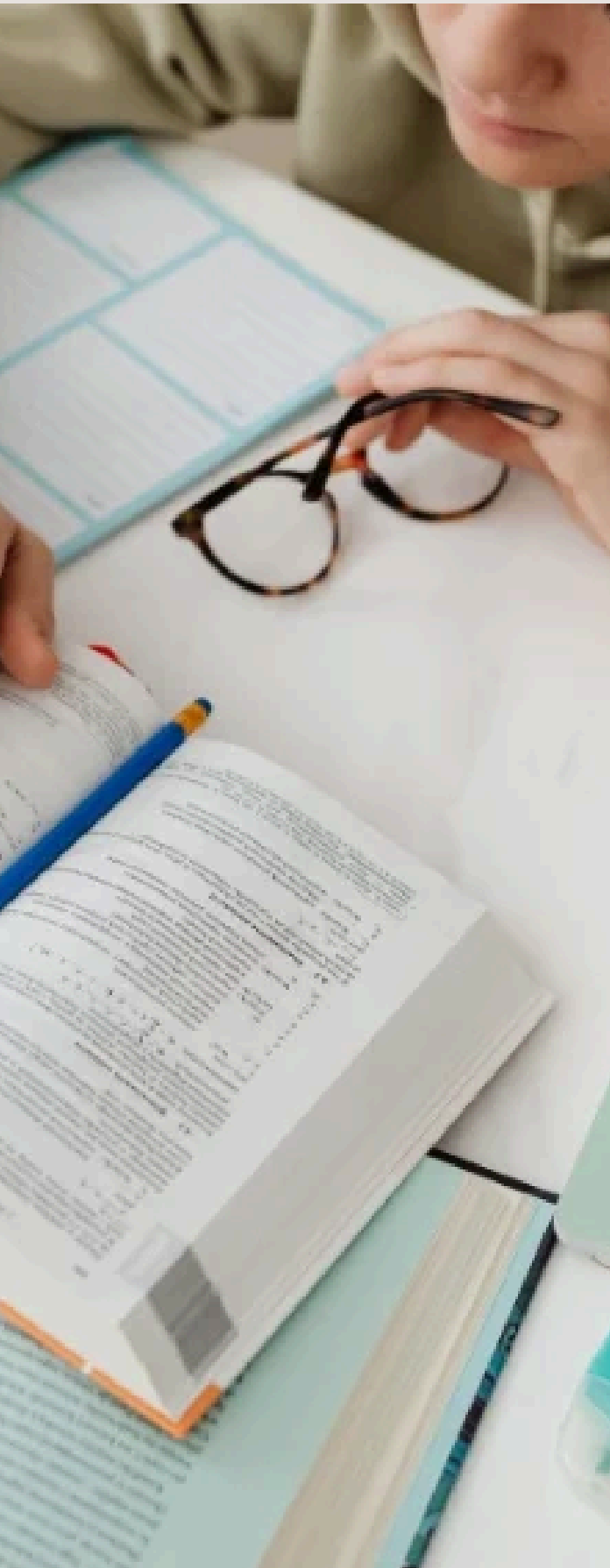
1. It defines key knowledge.
2. It places that powerful knowledge in your hands to make revision tools easier to produce.
3. It guides you on how to revise.
4. It suggests next steps to deepen your understanding.

By making high quality flashcards, mind maps or concept maps and using them correctly, you will set yourself up for success.

You have the tools, now you have to choose how to use them.

“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” Tim Notke





# Choose your tool

**Flash cards** are perfect for learning individual pieces of knowledge and establishing a foundation of information.

Flash cards should have a prompt on one side and a response on the other.

When you see the prompt, you have to remember the correct response. You can quiz yourself, quiz someone else or have someone quiz you.

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**Mind maps** link knowledge together and are perfect for revising individual characters or themes. They help to organise your foundational knowledge.

**Concept maps** explore how things connect and are a great way to finish your revision and prepare for essay writing. They are perfect for revising how themes, symbols and motifs are explored throughout a text.



# What and how

In **year 10**, we suggest you spend **30 minutes twice a week** revising English.

In **year 11**, we suggest you spend **30 minutes three times a week** revising English.

Break this 30 minutes into three ten minute slots.

Set a clear target – Pick a character or theme for spend ten minutes on. Start a timer for 10, 20 and 30 minutes to tell you when to move on.

First session on that theme or character – make your flashcards or mind map using colour and simple images to aid your memory. Choose at least one quote from the response box, if there are more than one.

Second session on that theme or character – review and improve your flashcards; add more detail about the quotation such as techniques or words to zoom in on.

Every subsequent session – quiz yourself and check your answers. You can do this verbally or you can try to write your mindmap or answer from memory. Check your answer and practice the perfect version.

Revision is best when it is done in silence with as few distractions as possible.

# Macbeth



A **tragic hero, physically strong**, but **mentally and spiritually weak**. his **ambition** is a fatal flaw that leaves him open to **temptation**.

He begins the play as a **loyal hero** defending the **natural order**, but he is tempted and commits the **unnatural crime** of regicide. His punishment is to be **abandoned by God** and is unable to sleep or find peace. His **mind breaks down** and he is **reduced to maniacal raving**, in his **desperation** he is made **arrogant** by the witches before they abandon him and he **dies a hated tyrant**.

Prompt	Response
Macbeth is introduced as a positive figure.	"Eagle" "Lion" "brave" "Valiant" "Worthy gentleman" "like canons overcharged with double cracks"
Macbeth falls for the witches' temptation.	"rapt" "vaulting ambition" "stars hide your fires. Let light not see my black and deep desires"
Macbeth resists, but is too weak to fight his ambition.	"We shall proceed no further in this business" "I dare do all that may become a man"
Macbeth's unnatural crimes bring unnatural punishments.	"wherefore could i not pronounce Amen?" "Macbeth doth murder sleep" "full of scorpions is my mind" "Hence horrible shadow. Unreal mockery, hence"
Macbeth is forced to commit more and more crimes - he can't stop	"To be thus is nothing, but to be safely thus" "Things bad begun make themselves strong by ill." "I am in blood stepped in so far" "blood will have blood"
Macbeth is arrogant in his defiance	"I have almost forgot the taste of fears" "give me my armour" "I bear a charmed life"
Macbeth realises how pointless his efforts are: he knows he has lost.	"life is but a walking shadow" "Those juggling fiends no more believed that palter with us in double sense."

# Lady Macbeth

A **deeply ambitious** woman, **desperate** for power in a **patriarchal world**. **Traumatized** by the loss of her child and **seeking power**, she has become **cruelly manipulative**.



She begins the play as a **dominant** figure able to control her husband and fool the most powerful people in Scotland, but, as she **loses control**, her **guilt** drives her to **suicide** as a **wretched** and **pitiful shell of the woman she once was**.

Prompt	Response
Lady Macbeth is established as willing to do anything for power.	<p>"The raven himself is hoarse who croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan under my battlements."</p> <p>"Come you spirits who tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here"</p> <p>"Come, thick night, and pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell"</p> <p>"Thou art not without ambition, but without the illness"</p>
Lady Macbeth manipulates and dominates her husband.	<p>"I do fear thy nature, it's too full of the milk of human kindness"</p> <p>"Was the hope drunk Wherein you dressed yourself?"</p> <p>"When you durst do it, then you were a man"</p> <p>"I would, while it was smiling in my face, Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums And dashed the brains out"</p>
Lady Macbeth is initially calm and focused after Duncan's murder.	<p>"get some water and wash this filthy witness from your hand"</p> <p>"a little water clears us of this deed"</p> <p>"The sleeping and the dead are but as pictures. "</p> <p>"What's done is done."</p>
Lady Macbeth begins to lose control over her husband.	<p>"You must leave this" "This is the very painting of your fear."</p> <p>"You lack the season of all natures, sleep."</p> <p>"Naught's had, all's spent, Where our desire is got without content."</p>
Lady Macbeth is broken by her guilt.	<p>"Out damn spot"</p> <p>"Here's the smell of the blood still. All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O, O, O!"</p> <p>"the queen, my lord, is dead"</p>
Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's relationship breaks apart	<p>Act 1 - "my dearest partner to greatness"</p> <p>Act 3 - "dearest chuck"</p> <p>Act 5 - "she"</p>

# The Witches



A **mysterious** group who can **vanish at will**. They have **strange powers of prophesy** and use it to **tempt** Macbeth and **entrap him**.

Whilst they **do not lie**, they **equivocate** and never reveal the whole truth. They would have been held in fear by the **Jacobean audience** and represent **a warning** about the seductive nature of **the supernatural**.

They speak in a **different rhythm** to the rest of the characters, emphasising their **strange otherness**.

Prompt	Response
The witches open the play capturing a sense of strangeness.	<p>"In thunder, lightning or in rain"</p> <p>"When the battle's lost and won"</p> <p>"Fair is foul and foul is fair"</p>
The witches are strange and unusual in appearance and behaviour.	<p>"What are these, so withered, and so wild in their attire, that look not like th' inhabitants o' th' Earth and yet are on 't?"</p> <p>"The earth hath bubbles, as the water has, And these are of them. Whither are they vanished?"</p> <p>Macbeth says: "Infected be the air whereon they ride, And damned all those that trust them!"</p>
The witches give prophecies to Macbeth and Banquo.	<p>"All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!"</p> <p>"Lesser than Macbeth and greater. Not so happy, yet much happier. Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none."</p> <p>"So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo! Banquo and Macbeth, all hail"</p>
The witches deliver a second set of prophecies to Macbeth.	<p>"Speak. Demand. We'll answer"</p> <p>"Laugh to scorn the power of man, for none of woman born Shall harm Macbeth."</p> <p>"Seek to know no more."</p>



# Banquo

A **powerful warrior** and supporter of the King who **resists temptation**. He is a **victim of Macbeth's paranoia**, but fulfils his prophesy through his son's escape. He is naturally **suspicious** and **questioning**.

Prompt	Response
Banquo is suspicious of the witches and rejects their power.	<p>"What, can the devil speak true?"</p> <p>"Speak, then, to me, who neither beg nor fear Your favors nor your hate."</p> <p>"Merciful powers, Restrain in me the cursèd thoughts that nature Gives way to in repose."</p>
Banquo suspects Macbeth's motives and actions.	"all As the Weïrd Women promised, and I fear Thou played'st most foully for 't. "



# Macduff

A **powerful warrior** and supporter of the natural order who **swears revenge** against Macbeth and **kills him** to avenge his **murdered family**.

Prompt	Response
Macduff is a loyal servant to the rightful King and his country.	<p>"And look on death itself. Up, up, and see The great doom's image."</p> <p>"These evils thou repeat'st upon thyself hath banished me from Scotland.—O my breast, thy hope ends here!"</p>
Macduff is deeply emotional about his family's murder.	<p>"He has no children"      "All my pretty chickens and their dam"</p> <p>"First I must feel it as a man"</p>
Macduff kills Macbeth.	<p>"turn hellhound"      "My voice is in my sword"</p> <p>"From his mother's womb untimely ripped"</p>



# King Duncan

A **kind and generous King** who is **far too trusting**. His **weakness** throws Scotland into two civil wars.

He is a **very different ruler to Macbeth**, but neither is good.

Prompt	Response
Duncan is a kind and generous King.	<p>"What bloody man is that?"</p> <p>"What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won."</p>
Duncan is too trusting to the point of foolishness	<p>"There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face. He was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust. <i>Enter Macbeth</i>"</p> <p>"Conduct me to mine host. We love him highly"</p>



# Malcolm

Malcolm is **initially weak** as he runs after Duncan's death, but he **gains strength and wisdom**. He tests Macduff's loyalty, showing he is **less foolish than his father**. He **ends the play as King** with a tragic hope for the future.

Prompt	Response
Malcolm has the wisdom and vision to be a good ruler.	<p>"signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine on all deservers."</p> <p>"Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell"</p>
Malcolm is strong enough to be a leader.	<p>"Dispute it like a man"</p> <p>"our power is ready;</p> <p>Our lack is nothing but our leave; Macbeth is ripe for shaking"</p>
Malcolm has learned from his father's mistakes, but is still kind.	<p>"This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues, was once thought honest"</p> <p>A good and virtuous nature may recoil in an imperial charge."</p>

# Extending your revision

Once you have made your flashcards, you can choose additional quotations to give yourself a wider range.

You can drill down into the quotations with **technical** and **thematic** analysis notes.

Text level

Characterisation, extended metaphor, motif, symbolism, cyclical narrative, semantic field, exposition, ambiguous ending, themes, message and purpose

Sentence level

Repetition, declarative, imperative, interrogative, exclamatory, metaphor, oxymoron, listing, polysyndeton, tricolon, rhetorical question

Word level

Verbs, adjectives, adverbs, modal verbs, personal pronouns

## Technical analysis

Consider the choices the writer has made around the use of words and techniques.

Word level - sentence level - text level

## Thematic analysis

Consider the writer's intention and get 'outside the text'.

Use analytical verbs to consider the writer and the reader.

## Analytical verbs

**Suggests**  
**Explores**  
**Highlights**  
**Captures**  
**Emphasises**  
**Reveals**  
**Stresses**

**Illustrates**  
**Evokes**  
**Questions**  
**Attacks**  
**Critiques**  
**Criticises**  
**Undermines**

**Presents**  
**Establishes**  
**Builds**  
**Develops**  
**Increases**  
**Reinforces**  
**Concludes**

Use the quotation bank books for inspiration and ideas.

You can then practice writing analytical paragraphs for each quotation.