Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 7 and answer the question that follows.   
  
At this point in the play, Macbeth has decided he does not want to kill King Duncan. He is telling his wife, Lady Macbeth, about his decision.

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| **MACBETH**  We will proceed no further in this business:  He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought  Golden opinions from all sorts of people,  Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,  Not cast aside so soon.  **LADY MACBETH**  Was the hope drunk  Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?  And wakes it now, to look so green and pale  At what it did so freely? From this time  Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard  To be the same in thine own act and valour  As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that  Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,  And live a coward in thine own esteem,  Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'  Like the poor cat i' the adage?  **MACBETH**  Prithee, peace:  I dare do all that may become a man;  Who dares do more is none.  **LADY MACBETH**  What beast was't, then,  That made you break this enterprise to me?  When you durst do it, then you were a man;  And, to be more than what you were, you would  Be so much more the man. |

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a strong character.

Write about:  
• how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech  
• how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.  **[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 and answer the question that follows.  
  
At this point in the play, Macbeth is now king of Scotland. Banquo is concerned about how Macbeth has become King.

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| **BANQUO**  Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,  As the weird women promised, and, I fear,  Thou play'dst most foully for't: yet it was said  It should not stand in thy posterity,  But that myself should be the root and father  Of many kings. If there come truth from them--  As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine--  Why, by the verities on thee made good,  May they not be my oracles as well,  And set me up in hope? But hush! no more.  ***Enter MACBETH, as king, LADY MACBETH, as queen, LENNOX, ROSS, Lords, Ladies, and Attendants***  **MACBETH**  Here's our chief guest.  **LADY MACBETH**  If he had been forgotten,  It had been as a gap in our great feast,  And all-thing unbecoming.  **MACBETH**  To-night we hold a solemn supper sir,  And I'll request your presence.  **BANQUO**  Let your highness  Command upon me; to the which my duties  Are with a most indissoluble tie  For ever knit. |

Starting with this conversation, explain how Shakespeare presents Macbeth and Banquo’s relationship.

Write about:

* how Shakespeare presents their relationship in this conversation
* how Shakespeare presents the relationship elsewhere in the play  **[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 and answer the question that follows.  
  
At this point in the play, Lady Macbeth is suffering from guilt due to her involvement in Duncan’s murder.

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| **LADY MACBETH** | Out, damned spot! out, I say!--One: two: why, |
|  | then, 'tis time to do't.--Hell is murky!--Fie, my |
|  | lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard? What need we |
|  | fear who knows it, when none can call our power to |
|  | account?--Yet who would have thought the old man |
|  | to have had so much blood in him. |
| **Doctor** | Do you mark that? |
| **LADY MACBETH** | The thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now?-- |
|  | What, will these hands ne'er be clean?--No more o' |
|  | that, my lord, no more o' that: you mar all with |
|  | this starting. |
| **Doctor** | Go to, go to; you have known what you should not. |
| **Gentlewoman** | She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of |
|  | that: heaven knows what she has known. |
| **LADY MACBETH** | Here's the smell of the blood still: all the |
|  | perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little |
|  | hand. Oh, oh, oh! |
|  |  |

Starting with this scene,, explain how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a weak character.   
Write about:

* how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this scene
* how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth elsewhere in the play  **[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**