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Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the Doctor and the Gentlewoman watch Lady Macbeth sleepwalking.

5	<p>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?</p> <p>DOCTOR Do you mark that?</p> <p>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.</p>
10	<p>DOCTOR Go to, go to; you have known what you should not.</p> <p>GENTLEWOMAN She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that. Heaven knows what she has known.</p> <p>LADY MACBETH Here's the smell of the blood still; all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O, O, O.</p>
15	<p>DOCTOR What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.</p> <p>GENTLEWOMAN I would not have such a heart in my bosom for the dignity of the whole body.</p> <p>DOCTOR Well, well, well –</p> <p>GENTLEWOMAN Pray God it be, sir.</p>
20	<p>DOCTOR This disease is beyond my practice; yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds.</p> <p>LADY MACBETH Wash your hands, put on your night-gown, look not so pale. I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot</p>
25	<p>come out on's grave.</p> <p>DOCTOR Even so?</p> <p>LADY MACBETH To bed, to bed; there's knocking at the gate. Come, come, come, come, give me your hand; what's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed.</p>

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'Lady Macbeth is a female character who changes during the play.'

Starting with this moment in the play, explore how far you agree with this view.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth in this extract
- how far Shakespeare presents Lady Macbeth as a female character who changes in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Read the following extract from Chapter 3 of *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Present is about to leave Scrooge.

- The chimes were ringing the three quarters past eleven at that moment.
 "Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask," said Scrooge, looking intently at the Spirit's robe, "but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?"
- 5 "It might be a claw, for the flesh there is upon it," was the Spirit's sorrowful reply. "Look here."
- From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.
- 10 "Oh, Man! look here. Look, look, down here!" exclaimed the Ghost. They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds.
- 15 Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread. Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be
- 20 parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude. "Spirit! are they yours?" Scrooge could say no more. "They are Man's," said the Spirit, looking down upon them. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!"
- 25 cried the Spirit, stretching out its hand towards the city. "Slander those who tell it ye! Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse. And bide the end!" "Have they no refuge or resource?" cried Scrooge. "Are there no prisons?" said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his
- 30 own words. "Are there no workhouses?" The bell struck twelve.

Starting with this extract, explore how Dickens presents the suffering of the poor in *A Christmas Carol*.

Write about:

- how Dickens presents the suffering of the poor in this extract
- how Dickens presents the suffering of the poor in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]