Macbeth Soliloquy
Act 2 Scene 1

Task One Read the extract at least twice. Underline 10 unusual words and try to define them. Use your phone or a dictionary to help find the actual definitions and write them on the sheet.

Task Two How does Macbeth describe the Dagger? What does he suspect that it might be? Suggest two possible answers and provide two quotations to support your work.

Task Three Does Macbeth trust the vision of the dagger? What might the symbol of the dagger represent? Why?

Task Four How has Shakespeare used personification to present Macbeth's desire? Your answer should be at least one paragraph; include specific quotations from the text; an exploration of Shakespeare's use of figurative language. How does the use of language meaning help to unlock meaning?

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going;
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses,
Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing:
It is the bloody business which informs
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one halfworld
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtain'd sleep; witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings, and wither'd murder,
Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace.
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabout,
And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives:
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

A bell rings

I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

Exit