

PiXL Independence

English Literature – Student Booklet

KS5

The Duchess of Malfi

Contents:

- I. Context Quiz – 20 credits in total
- II. Multiple Choice Questions – 10 credits per set
- III. Linguistic and Structural Device Quiz – 10 credits per line
- IV. Short Answer Questions – 10 credits per question
- V. Wider Reading – 50 credits for each summary completed and 10 for each question
- VI. Critical Theory – 150 credits for each completed task
- VII. Academic Research – 50 credits for every 30-point summary
- VIII. Exam Style Questions – 100 credits plus 20 bonus credits for marking your own essay

I. Context Quiz

Answer the questions that explore the context of the play. You will need to draw on your contextual knowledge and wider reading to support you in completing this.

20 credits for completing this quiz.

1. What is the name given to the time period that The Duchess of Malfi was first performed in?
 - a. Elizabethan
 - b. Jacobean
 - c. Victorian
 - d. Medieval

2. What aspects of good leadership do Antonio and King James I both believe in?
 - a. A good leader should not abuse their power.
 - b. A good leader will gain as much wealth as possible.
 - c. A good leader is to use violent force where necessary.
 - d. A good leader deserves a good wife.

3. Why would Webster write about these qualities in his play?
 - a. It was a topic people enjoyed discussing.
 - b. These are values that do not change.
 - c. King James wrote a book about Kingship and so this would appeal to him.
 - d. It was important to show the bad leaders.

4. What were the main criticisms of King James I's court?
 - a. He had favourites who were handsomely rewarded for questionable service.
 - b. James relied on the advice of Parliament too much.
 - c. James wanted his daughter to be crowned.
 - d. He was rarely seen by the public.

5. Which country is the play set in?
 - a. Austria
 - b. England
 - c. Scotland
 - d. Italy

6. Why is this significant? Select two reasons.
- a. Italy is a country with Dukes and Duchesses in power.
 - b. Italian ruling classes had a reputation for sinful behaviours.
 - c. It enabled Webster to comment on the flaws of James' court without being seen as treacherous.
 - d. It was a popular location amongst the audience and many would have visited the country.
7. The belief that social order had been fixed by God is referred to as what?
- a. The Great Chain of Being
 - b. The Pre-ordained Role
 - c. The Divine Class System
 - d. The Cultural Frame
8. What did people believe would happen if this order was not upheld?
- a. Poor people would squander their wealth as they did not know how to use it.
 - b. Crops would fail.
 - c. Society would be plunged into chaos and anarchy.
 - d. No-one would have any children and the population would die out.
9. Why are the political views of Niccolo Machiavelli relevant to the play?
- a. He was a contemporary of John Webster and they were good friends.
 - b. He was an advisor to King James I.
 - c. He reflected the political beliefs of the general public at the time.
 - d. He encouraged the use of deception and manipulation for personal gain.
10. What rights did a widow have in Jacobean society that a married or unmarried woman did not? Select two.
- a. The right to own and manage property.
 - b. The right to vote.
 - c. She was entitled to have multiple lovers.
 - d. She no longer had to obey the authority of her husband.
11. Why is this relevant to the play? Select two reasons.
- a. People found the behaviour of widows fascinating.
 - b. The Duchess has the right to govern her own property.
 - c. The Duchess' brothers fear her newfound power.
 - d. Widows are able to do more than other female characters.

12. What contextual factors may have influenced the theme of mortality within the play?
- a. There were frequent outbreaks of the plague during the Jacobean era.
 - b. People at that time were obsessed with death.
 - c. Webster wanted to emphasise the need for improved sanitation.
 - d. Webster was very ill throughout his life.
13. What was the dominant religion in England during the Jacobean era?
- a. Evangelism
 - b. Judaism
 - c. Protestantism
 - d. Catholicism
14. What was the dominant religion in Italy during the Jacobean era?
- a. Evangelism
 - b. Judaism
 - c. Protestantism
 - d. Catholicism
15. Why is this significant? Select two.
- a. The Cardinal embodies the perceived hypocrisies and vices of the Catholic Church.
 - b. It helps create a backdrop of conflict within the play.
 - c. Criticising the Catholic faith was a safe way of attacking other forms of political corruption.
 - d. People wanted to see religion in plays.

II. Multiple Choice Questions

Answer these questions. Each set of questions is based on one Act within the play and are usually in the order they happen. You could choose to do a set each session or alternatively you could answer multiple quizzes at a time.

10 credits for each set of questions answered.

Act 1

1. What does Antonio believe will happen if there is courtly corruption?
 - a. There will be an increase in social mobility.
 - b. Death and disease will spread through the land.
 - c. Courtiers will be treated more leniently.
 - d. People will stop believing in God.

2. What is it that Antonio admires about the French court? Select two.
 - a. The King has done away with sycophantic courtiers and replaced them with reliable advisors.
 - b. The King has stopped spending money on frivolous items.
 - c. The King has created a fixed order to maintain the Chain of Being.
 - d. The King performs daily acts of charity and faith.

3. Why might Antonio's speech be considered ironic?
 - a. He defies the Chain of Being by marrying the Duchess.
 - b. He is one of the sycophantic courtiers he claims to despise.
 - c. He has only witnessed the positive aspects of the court and ignores the negative.
 - d. He is telling this to Bosola, who is a corrupt advisor.

4. "If he had means to be so." What does this quotation reveal about Bosola?
 - a. He is a wealthy character.
 - b. He is a sympathetic character.
 - c. He is a character of low birth.
 - d. He is a spiteful character.

5. Which of these quotations best reveals the extent of the Cardinal's corruption?
- a. "You enforce your merit too much."
 - b. "He and his brother are like plum trees..."
 - c. "I would hang on their ears like a horse-leech..."
 - d. "This great fellow were able to posses the greatest devil"
6. Which of these quotations best reveals the extent of Bosola's willingness to sacrifice his integrity for wealth?
- a. "You enforce your merit too much."
 - b. "He and his brother are like plum trees..."
 - c. "I would hang on their ears like a horse-leech..."
 - d. "This great fellow were able to posses the greatest devil"
7. What warning does Antonio give about the Cardinal's treatment of Bosola?
- a. That Bosola will eventually murder the Cardinal.
 - b. That the Cardinal will lose an honest ally.
 - c. That Bosola will become despondent and commit suicide.
 - d. That the Cardinal's actions will poison all of Bosola's goodness.
8. Which quotation best illustrates Ferdinand's aggressive nature?
- a. "But I can laugh at your fool, my lord."
 - b. "Why do you laugh?"
 - c. "I shall shortly visit you at Milan."
 - d. "he runs as if he were ballass'd with quicksilver."
9. Which pillar of society does Ferdinand represent?
- a. the Church
 - b. the Family
 - c. the State
 - d. the Law

10. How does Webster reveal Ferdinand's corruption in this role?
- a. He neglects his role seeming "to sleep."
 - b. He only focuses on aspects that suit his needs.
 - c. He "dooms men to death" without proper evidence.
 - d. He "ne'er pays debts" to those he owes.
11. What creature does Delio compare Ferdinand to?
- a. a wolf
 - b. a tiger
 - c. a serpent
 - d. a spider
12. Which quotation best illustrates the motif of hidden corruption?
- a. "I would not be seen in't"
 - b. "A gentleman...one that was in the galleys."
 - c. "You must give great men leave to take their times."
 - d. "She is a young widow, I would not have her marry again."
13. What role does Bosola describe as "a very quaint invisible devil in flesh"?
- a. a priest
 - b. a spy
 - c. a magistrate
 - d. a politician
14. Which quotations best reflect the Duchess' difficult position when trying to find a second husband? Select two.
- a. "my royal kindred lay in my way unto this marriage."
 - b. "We are forced to woo because none dare woo us."
 - c. "This is flesh and blood, sir. 'Tis not the figure cut in alabaster."
 - d. "Time will easily scatter the tempest."

15. How does Cariola describe the marriage between the Duchess and Antonio?

- a. a poor decision
- b. a fearful madness
- c. a worthy match
- d. a noble endeavour

ACT 2

1. Act 2 opens with Bosola and Castruchio discussing something that Antonio refers to as “a great man’s madness.” What are they discussing?

- a. Murder
- b. Passion
- c. Marriage
- d. Ambition

2. How does Bosola mock Castruchio’s desire to be an “eminent courtier”? Select two.

- a. He makes ridiculous suggestions about how to behave.
- b. He gives Castruchio specific details about what style of hat to wear.
- c. He focuses on Castruchio’s physical appearance rather than his talents.
- d. He suggests how to bribe the Cardinal.

3. What does Bosola compare to a “shop of witchcraft”?

- a. The court of Malfi
- b. Women who wear make-up
- c. Liars and politicians
- d. Jesters and clowns

4. Which quotation supports the argument that that Bosola has a nihilistic attitude?

- a. “continually we bear about us a rotten and dead body”
- b. “There’s rough-cast phrase to your plastic.”
- c. “I do wonder you do not loathe yourselves”
- d. “Observe my meditation now.”

5. Bosola uses a succinct philosophical statement to warn of the dangers of ambition: "When a man's mind rides faster than his horse can gallop, they quickly both tire." What is the term given to this type of phrase?
- Anecdote
 - Hyperbole
 - Epigram
 - Sententia
6. Why does Bosola give the Duchess apricots?
- He is trying to gain her trust so that he can spy on her more effectively.
 - He plans to poison her to gain favour with her brothers.
 - He is jealous of her relationship with Antonio and wants to woo her himself.
 - He believes she is pregnant and apricots were reputed to bring about labour.
7. Why does the Duchess cry, "I fear I am undone"?
- Her pregnancy has made the seams of her dress split.
 - She has eaten too many apricots and feels sick.
 - She fears she is about to go into labour and her secret will be discovered.
 - She is worried that her impolite behaviour towards the Old Lady will cause problems with the servants.
8. Why does the Old Lady state that Bosola is "still abusing women"?
- He uses a sexual innuendo that implies women will trade sexual favours for wealth.
 - He mocks her outfit and the perfume she wears.
 - He discusses the deceitful nature of women and calls them all liars.
 - He ignores her presence completely.

9. How does Antonio ensure that the Duchess is able to give birth in secret? Select two.
- a. He has sent her to a convent away from the court.
 - b. He pretends there has been a theft and all members of the court must remain in their chambers.
 - c. He tells the servants the Duchess is very ill.
 - d. He explains that the servants need to prepare a great feast for the Cardinal and Ferdinand as a means to distract them.
10. What is significant about the servants' description of the thief?
- a. They give a detailed description of Bosola.
 - b. They describe him using features attributed to King James I.
 - c. They make a number of bawdy sexual jokes about him.
 - d. They reveal him to be the father of the Duchess' child.
11. What does Antonio mean when he says he will "Go set a figure for's nativity" following the birth of his son?
- a. Antonio plans to make a model of his son to put into a nativity set.
 - b. Antonio intends to prepare a nursery for his son to sleep in.
 - c. Antonio will calculate how much he owes the midwives for their assistance in the birth.
 - d. Antonio will cast a horoscope for his new born son.
12. Which of the following quotations best shows the Cardinal believing he has power over Julia?
- a. "Still you are to thank me."
 - b. "I'll love you wisely."
 - c. "You cannot make me cuckold."
 - d. "My affection to thee lightning moves to slow it."

13. How does Delio mock Castruchio?

- a. He says Castruchio is a poor horseman.
- b. He implies that Castruchio is impotent.
- c. He refers to Castruchio's age and frailty.
- d. He makes fun of the fact that Julia once slept with him.

14. Why does the Cardinal tell Ferdinand that he does "fly beyond [his] reason"?

- a. Ferdinand graphically imagines his own sister having sex.
- b. Ferdinand promises to execute his sister publicly.
- c. Ferdinand accuses the Cardinal of withholding information about the child's father and threatens him.
- d. Ferdinand plans to hide in the Duchess' chambers to catch her with a lover.

15. What does the Cardinal believe "intemperate anger" will do to a man? Select two.

- a. Make him impotent.
- b. Make him deformed.
- c. Make him lose his hair.
- d. Make him beastly.

ACT 3

1. How many children do Antonio and the Duchess have together at the start of Act 3?

- a. Three – one boy and two girls.
- b. Four – two boys and two girls.
- c. One – the son she gave birth to in Act 2.
- d. Three – two boys and one girl.

2. Who does Ferdinand suggest the Duchess should marry?

- a. Bosola
- b. Count Malatesta
- c. Antonio
- d. Delio

3. What has Bosola obtained for Ferdinand?
 - a. A key to the Duchess' bedchamber.
 - b. A copy of her youngest child's horoscope.
 - c. A love letter to the Duchess from the father of her children.
 - d. A piece of male clothing found in the Duchess' chambers.

4. How does Webster present Cariola as a trusted character? Select two.
 - a. She is aware of the marriage between Antonio and the Duchess but has not told anyone.
 - b. She has shared a bed with the Duchess and joins in with Antonio's joke on his wife.
 - c. She refuses to answer Ferdinand's questions despite him threatening her.
 - d. She tells the Duchess about Bosola stealing her key.

5. Why does Ferdinand threaten his sister?
 - a. He believes she has tried to have him assassinated.
 - b. He proposes they have an incestuous relationship and she rejects him.
 - c. He believes she has ruined their name by having children out of wedlock.
 - d. He wants her to hand the ruling of the lands over to him.

6. Which quotation best shows that the Duchess is attempting to stand up to her brother and challenge the rules imposed upon her by society?
 - a. "Why should only I of all other princes of the world be cased up like a holy relic?"
 - b. "My reputation is safe."
 - c. "I pray sir, hear me: I am married."
 - d. "Mine bleeds for't."

7. How does the Duchess attempt to protect Antonio from Ferdinand's fury? Select two.
- a. She urges him to go to monastery and seek sanctuary.
 - b. She tells Bosola she believes Antonio has stolen from the family giving a valid explanation as to why he has left the court.
 - c. She decides to marry him again in a public event.
 - d. She sends him to Ancona with the promise of jewels and money.
8. How does Bosola manipulate the Duchess into revealing that she is married to Antonio?
- a. He praises Antonio's good qualities and disbelieves the accusations against him.
 - b. He tells her that her brothers plan to kill her children if she does not reveal the name of their father.
 - c. He accuses her of witchcraft and threatens to have her arrested.
 - d. He threatens to have Cariola killed unless the Duchess reveals the identity of the father of her children.
9. Why is Cariola uncomfortable with the lie about the pilgrimage?
- a. It has already been used by Julia and she believes the brothers will be suspicious.
 - b. She believes it is unwise to use sacred rituals in acts of deception.
 - c. She does not share the Duchess' religious beliefs.
 - d. She thinks that telling the brothers the Duchess has gone to a spa is a more convincing lie.
10. The banishment of the Duchess and Antonio is presented to the audience using a specific dramatic technique. What is it called?
- a. A soliloquy
 - b. A hypophora
 - c. A dumb-show
 - d. A melodrama

11. What happened to the Duchess' lands after her banishment?
- a. They were seized by the Pope.
 - b. They were seized by Ferdinand.
 - c. They were seized by the Cardinal.
 - d. They were given to Bosola as payment for the information about her marriage to Antonio.
12. What item did the Cardinal take from the Duchess?
- a. The keys to her home.
 - b. Her horse.
 - c. Her rosary.
 - d. Her wedding ring.
13. The Duchess calls Ferdinand's letter a "politic equivocation." What is meant by this?
- a. Ferdinand uses rhetoric to construct a persuasive argument.
 - b. Ferdinand uses deliberately vague and ambiguous language.
 - c. Ferdinand makes enthusiastic promises throughout the letter.
 - d. Ferdinand uses emotional language to show the depth of his feelings for his sister.
14. Which quotation best reveals Bosola's belief that Antonio is a weak character?
- a. "Will you reject that noble and free league of amity and love which I present to you?"
 - b. "Every small thing draws a base mind to fear as the adamant draws to iron."
 - c. "You are happily o'erta'en."
 - d. "What do you believe?"

15. How does Act 3 end?

- a. Bosola murders Cariola and kidnaps the Duchess.
- b. Antonio returns to rescue the Duchess from Bosola.
- c. Bosola arrests the Duchess, who recites a parable about a salmon and a dogfish.
- d. Bosola tells the Duchess that the only way she can save herself and Antonio is to share Ferdinand's bed for one night.

ACT 4

1. Why does Ferdinand curse his sister in the opening of Act 4?

- a. She helped Antonio escape and so Ferdinand cannot have his revenge.
- b. She has been seen practising witchcraft while imprisoned.
- c. She has made multiple attempts to escape and caused his men a great of trouble.
- d. She is conducting herself in a noble and restrained manner implying she feels no remorse for her actions.

2. What does the phrase, "Why dost thou wrap thy poisoned pills in gold and sugar?" imply?

- a. The Duchess has no more treasures with which to buy Bosola's help.
- b. The Duchess knows Bosola has betrayed her and accuses him of trying to deceive her further.
- c. The Duchess is tired of waiting for news of her final punishment and wants Bosola to be brutally honest with her.
- d. The Duchess is subtly trying to ask Bosola to obtain poison for her so that she can commit suicide rather than face her brothers.

3. How has Webster's presentation of Ferdinand up to this point help the Duchess and the audience believe he would have "rashly made a solemn vow" to never see his sister again? Select two.

- a. He is frequently shown as struggling to keep his anger under control.
- b. He is a deeply religious man who takes oaths and vows seriously.
- c. He was hurt by his sister's rejection of his advances and prays for forgiveness.
- d. He behaves in an extreme manner throughout the play.

4. What are the conditions of Ferdinand's visit? Select two.
- a. The Duchess must write a full confession about her sinful relationship with Antonio.
 - b. The Duchess must publicly declare that Antonio bewitched her with a love potion.
 - c. The Duchess must ensure the room is completely dark so that Ferdinand does not see her.
 - d. The Duchess must allow him to kiss her hand.
5. How does Ferdinand show his contempt for the Duchess' children? Select two.
- a. He calls them her "cubs" – dehumanising them and implying she is little more than an animal driven by lust.
 - b. He refuses to acknowledge that they are her children and will not refer to them as having any connection to her.
 - c. He implies they are "bastards" despite the Duchess' marriage.
 - d. He mocks her when she says that she loves them.
6. What does Ferdinand trick the Duchess into kissing?
- a. His mouth.
 - b. A dead man's hand.
 - c. A disease-ridden lunatic.
 - d. Bosola's boot.
7. What does the Duchess fear has happened when she realises Ferdinand has left her with a dead man's hand?
- a. He has made her kiss the hand of someone who died of the plague and now she will fall ill and die.
 - b. He has framed her for a murder he has committed and doomed her to an unsanctified grave.
 - c. He has cursed her using some form of witchcraft.
 - d. He has had Antonio murdered and it is his hand she is kissing.

8. What cruel trick has Ferdinand played on his sister?
- a. He has had a pile of bodies that look like Antonio and the Duchess' children made and left them in a pile in her room.
 - b. He pretended to woo his niece so that the Duchess feared he might sexually abuse her.
 - c. He has forged a letter from Antonio requesting an annulment for their marriage implying that the children are not his.
 - d. He has set up a scene depicting her public execution for her children to play with.
9. What does the Duchess' reference to Portia reveal about her mental state?
- a. Portia is a patron saint of women and so suggests the Duchess is praying and seeking absolution before her inevitable death.
 - b. Portia is a woman who committed suicide by swallowing hot coals, suggesting the Duchess is both full of despair and on the brink of madness.
 - c. Portia is a character in a Shakespeare play renowned for her wisdom and shows that the Duchess is calculating her means of escape.
 - d. Portia was one of the most beautiful women in Ancient Greece and reveals that the Duchess is willing to use her beauty and sexuality to manipulate her brother.
10. What does Ferdinand view as "excellent"?
- a. Bosola's service to him as an intelligencer.
 - b. The realism of the wax figures used to portray Antonio and the children.
 - c. The fact that his sister is cursing instead of praying.
 - d. The news that Antonio has suffered an accident.
11. How does Ferdinand intend to punish his sister further? Select two.
- a. He will have her surrounded by prostitutes and her meals served by pimps, implying a risk of sexual assault.
 - b. He will move her to a room without windows to ensure she never sees the sun.
 - c. He will shave her head so that her beauty is tarnished.
 - d. He will have inmates from the local asylum brought to her to prevent her from sleeping.

12. How does Bosola appear to the Duchess at the end of Act 4?

- a. He is disguised as a mad priest.
- b. He is disguised as a mad lawyer.
- c. He is disguised as an old man.
- d. He is disguised as a Swiss soldier.

13. Which quotation best shows that the Duchess has accepted her fate?

- a. "Who would be afraid on't, knowing to meet such excellent company in th'other world?"
- b. "Would it pleasure me to have my throat cut with diamonds?"
- c. "Even now thou said'st thou was a tomb-maker."
- d. "Thine will be a poor reversion."

14. How does Webster present the behaviour of the Duchess and Cariola?

- a. Both the Duchess and Cariola think of their children at the end of their lives.
- b. Both women are seen praying to God for forgiveness.
- c. The Duchess quietly and nobly accepts her fate whereas Cariola makes a desperate attempt to avoid it.
- d. Cariola realises the executioner is Bosola and calls him a murderer whereas the Duchess does not recognise him in his disguise.

15. How does Webster show that Ferdinand regrets his decision to have his sister killed?
Select two.

- a. He questions why Bosola didn't try to stop him and why he didn't try to save her.
- b. He begins praying for absolution and asking his sister's corpse for forgiveness.
- c. He asks Bosola who gave him the order to execute the Duchess even though he was the one who ordered it done.
- d. He sings a sorrowful lament about the loss of his best friend.

16. How does Act 4 end?

- a. Ferdinand vows to follow his brother by joining the church in penance for the death of his sister.
- b. Bosola is rewarded with a jewel taken from the Duchess' dead body, which he accepts reluctantly.
- c. The Cardinal finds out what has happened and sentences Bosola to death.
- d. Bosola vows to find Antonio and protect him from the vengeful brothers.

ACT 5

1. At the start of Act 5, the audience know the Duchess is dead but Antonio does not. What is this device called?

- a. Hypophora
- b. Falling action
- c. Dramatic irony
- d. Anagnorisis

2. Why does Pescara say that he cannot give Antonio's lands to Delio? Select two.

- a. They were gained through unjust means and therefore befit someone sinful, like the adulterous Julia.
- b. He is fearful of the Cardinal and does not want to upset him by giving land to Antonio's friends.
- c. He believes it is immoral for friends to profit from the downfall of others.
- d. He believes that Delio does not want the land for himself but intends to give it back to Antonio.

3. Why does Antonio plan to visit the Cardinal?

- a. He hopes the Cardinal can see how much he loves the Duchess and they will be able to reconcile their differences?
- b. He seeks assurance that their children will not be disinherited from their birthright.
- c. He believes that the Cardinal is more likely to listen to reason than Ferdinand and hopes one brother can persuade the other of Antonio's loyalty.
- d. He has had a dream that the Duchess has travelled with the Cardinal and he is desperate to see his wife.

4. What disease is Ferdinand diagnosed with?
 - a. Bubonic plague
 - b. Tuberculosis
 - c. Syphilis
 - d. Lycanthropia

5. What specific action does Webster use to illustrate Ferdinand's descent into madness?
 - a. He begins talking to the ghost of the Duchess.
 - b. He attempts to throttle his own shadow.
 - c. He sings songs in a nonsensical language.
 - d. He dances in a way that suggests he has no control over his own limbs.

6. Why does the Cardinal ask Bosola, "how fares our sister?"
 - a. He is worried that Ferdinand's punishment may have been too much.
 - b. He has started to change his mind about his sister's marriage and is trying to work out if she will forgive him for snatching her wedding ring from her.
 - c. He is trying to mask the fact that he played a part in his sister's murder by pretending he thinks she is still alive.
 - d. He wants to see if she is willing to renounce her relationship with Antonio.

7. How does Julia attempt to woo Bosola? Select two.
 - a. She points a pistol at him and accuses him of giving her a love potion.
 - b. She offers him a gift of fine fabrics to make himself some suitable courtly attire.
 - c. She tells him that she will make a wealthy widow when her husband dies, hinting at Bosola's role as an assassin.
 - d. She refers to herself as one of the "great women of pleasure," hinting at her sexual prowess.

8. What does Bosola ask Julia to do for him?
- Find out the source of the Cardinal's misery.
 - Steal him a key to the Cardinal's private rooms.
 - Distract the Cardinal so that Bosola can kill him.
 - Publicly reveal their affair so that the Cardinal loses his reputation as a man of the Church
9. How does the Cardinal kill Julia?
- He stabs her with his father's knife.
 - He shoots her with her own pistol.
 - He strangles her to echo the death of the Duchess.
 - He forces her to kiss a poisoned book.
10. How does Webster show that the Cardinal's murder of Julia is pre-meditated?
- He includes a number of asides where the Cardinal swears to have all sinners executed.
 - He has already poisoned a book in preparation of her visit.
 - He includes a soliloquy where the Cardinal considers the different methods he might use to kill Julia.
 - He asks God for forgiveness of his actions before Julia enters the room.
11. How does Webster use the Echo in this Act?
- To foreshadow his doom if he goes to the Cardinal's chambers.
 - To present the theme of fate and pre-determination.
 - To add a classical layer to the drama.
 - To ensure the play meets all the conventions of a morality play.
12. Why does Bosola kill Antonio?
- He mistakes Antonio for the Cardinal.
 - He mistakes Antonio for Ferdinand.
 - He mistakes Antonio for an officer of the law.
 - He mistakes Antonio for an assassin.

13. Which quotation best reveals the Cardinal's lack of remorse for his sins?

- a. "How tedious is a guilty conscience!"
- b. "Hold: and I will faithfully divide revenues with thee."
- c. "Shall I die like a leveret without any resistance?"
- d. "Thou hast thy payment too."

14. What is ironic about Bosola's attack on the Cardinal?

- a. The Cardinal is supposed to be a skilled soldier but appears to be frightened by Bosola.
- b. To protect his reputation, the Cardinal insisted that his servants stay away, even if they hear him pretending to act like his brother.
- c. If he had not killed Julia, she would have been with him that night.
- d. Bosola planned to kill the Cardinal from the beginning of the play and took the first opportunity to exact his vengeance.

15. What does Malateste refer to as a "sad disaster"?

- a. The execution of the Duchess and the murder of her children.
- b. The accidental death of Antonio.
- c. The deaths of the Cardinal, Ferdinand, and the fatal wounding of Bosola.
- d. The loss of the Antonio's lands to Julia's husband.

16. What does Delio ask the other courtiers to help him do?

- a. Commission a statue of the Duchess to repair her damaged reputation.
- b. Ensure that the eldest son of the Duchess and Antonio receives his birthright.
- c. Bury the many dead bodies created in the final scene.
- d. Write the story down so that the warnings are not lost.

CHARACTER QS

1. Bosola is an example of a typical stock character from Jacobean drama known as a...
 - a. Machiavel
 - b. Malevolent
 - c. Malcontent
 - d. Maladjust

2. The Cardinal is an example of a typical stock character from Jacobean drama known as a...
 - a. Machiavel
 - b. Malevolent
 - c. Malcontent
 - d. Maladjust

3. What is significant about Castruchio's name? Select two.
 - a. It is from the same root as castrato and illustrates his impotence.
 - b. Its Italian ending helps reflect his passionate emotions.
 - c. It is a pun and helps reveal that this is a character to be mocked.
 - d. It is the name of a Catholic saint and therefore reflects his religious beliefs.

4. Who feels that "too much laughing fills [their face] too full of the wrinkle?"
 - a. The Duchess
 - b. Bosola
 - c. the Cardinal
 - d. Julia

5. How does Antonio reveal the Cardinal's cruelty towards others?
 - a. He describes the terrible way the Cardinal treats his mistress, Julia.
 - b. He shows that the Cardinal plots against those he is jealous of.
 - c. He describes the toad-like features of the Cardinal.
 - d. He reveals that the Cardinal tried to bribe his way to being Pope.

6. Who does Antonio describe as having “a most perverse and turbulent nature”?
- The Cardinal
 - The Duchess
 - Ferdinand
 - Julia
7. Which character appears in control when the Duchess goes into labour?
- Bosola
 - Delio
 - Antonio
 - The Old Lady
8. Why is it significant that Delio says he knew Bosola “in Padua”?
- Padua had a famous university and presents Bosola as an educated man.
 - It implies that Delio may not be as honest as he seems.
 - Padua’s court was equally riddled with corruption and Bosola was implicated in a scandal there.
 - The Duchess of Padua was murdered just before the play was published.
9. Which character plays the role of the ‘Renaissance court strumpet’?
- Pescara
 - Julia
 - The Duchess
 - The Old Lady
10. What is significant about Count Malatesta’s name?
- It is another sexual pun about male impotence, a recurring motif in the play.
 - The use of the prefix mal- helps imply that all people have a sense of evil within them.
 - To attest means to give clear information about something and the Count offers a clear account of the events of the play.
 - It is unlike the other names, presenting him as an outsider.

III. Linguistic and Structural Devices Quiz

You will get 10 credits per line.

Device	Definition	Examples from the text	Effect
Satire			
Metaphor			
Sententiae			
Aphorism			
Parable			
Foreshadowing			
Aside			
Dramatic Irony			
Colour symbolism			
Prose			

Blank verse			
Enjambment			
Caesura			
Heroic Couplet			
Religious imagery			
Freytag's Dramatic Arc			
Parallel Scenes			
Aristotelian Tragedy			
Hamartia			
Pathos			
Bathos			

Catharsis			
Hyperbole			
Pun			
Innuendo			
Antimasque			
The Fourth Wall			

Useful Vocabulary

You will get 10 credits per line. If you need to adapt the word for it to fit your sentence e.g. changing an adjective to a noun, that will still be acceptable.

Word	Meaning	Used in a relevant sentence about the text
Cynicism <i>Cynic, cynical</i>		
Zeitgeist		
Ephemeral		
Oppression <i>Oppressor, oppressive</i>		
Theology <i>Theologian, theological</i>		
Poetic justice		
Morality <i>Moral</i> <i>Immoral (antonym)</i>		
Reconciliation <i>Reconcile</i>		
Motive <i>Motivation</i>		
Plight		

IV. Short Answer Questions

Answer the questions with short responses from the text.

10 credits for each question answered correctly.

1. How does Webster show the court to be corrupt?

2. How does Webster establish Antonio as a worthy man at the start of the play?

3. How does your impression of Antonio change and/or develop during the course of the play?

4. Bosola initially does not want to be a spy until he is offered a position that will give him a higher social status. What does this say about the corrupting influence of society?

5. Which characters appear to go against The Great Chain of Being?

6. How are these characters punished for this defiance of social order?

7. Why was ambition a key concern at the time the play was written?
8. What are the main sins committed in the play and who commits them?
9. Are all the sinners punished? Do you feel the punishment they receive is equitable to the crimes they have committed?
10. How does the Duchess' wooing of Antonio compare with Julia's wooing of Bosola?
11. How do the characters in the play reflect the corruption in King James I's court?
12. The Duchess' hamartia is that she succumbs to romantic love. Are there any other characters that exhibit hamartia within the play? Who are they, what is their fatal flaw and how is this used in the play?
13. Why do you think Webster put the death of the Duchess at the end of Act 4 rather than in the final act?
14. How far do you agree with the idea that Bosola is genuinely remorseful of his actions at the end of the play?
15. Is the ending of the play a satisfying one for a tragedy?

V. Wider Reading

Read and summarise the academic articles below into 10 key points.

You will earn 50 credits per task and a further 10 credits for each question answered linked to the article.

1. Read the following article:

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/an-introduction-to-the-duchess-of-malfi>

How far do you agree with the idea that Webster has created a sensationalist play?

To what extent was Webster influenced by the society he lived in when he wrote *The Duchess of Malfi*?

2. Read the following article:

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/the-duchess-of-malfi-and-renaissance-women>

In what ways do the female characters within the play obey or defy society's expectations of women? *You will earn 10 credits for each character you discuss.*

3. Read the following article:

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/subversive-theatre-in-renaissance-england>

Could *The Duchess of Malfi* be classed as a piece of subversive theatre? Write a detailed response to this question based on your reading of both the article and the play.

4. Read and summarise the first two pages of the following article:

https://www.exeter.ac.uk/media/universityofexeter/internationalexeter/documents/iss/Duchess_of_Malfi.pdf

Write an explanation about the importance of marriage within the play and how this reflects contemporary concerns about female empowerment.

Bonus 100 credits for reading the whole text.

5. Read pages 3 – 5 of the following article:

<http://www.academypublication.com/issues2/jltr/vol11/06/08.pdf>

Rank the female characters in the play from the most rebellious to the least rebellious with a detailed explanation for your decision.

6. CHALLENGE – WORTH 100 CREDITS

Read the following article:

<https://literariness.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Visual-violence-in-John-Webster%E2%80%99s-The-Duchess-of-Malfi.pdf>

Write a case arguing for or against the following statement: The on-stage violence in *The Duchess of Malfi* is gratuitous and the play would be equally effective if the violence happened off-stage.

7. Watch each of the three videos on this link:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/the-duchess-of-malfi/the-duchess-speaks#&gid=1&pid=2>

25 credits for each video watched and summarised.

Write the script for a video from the perspective of an actor playing the Duchess about her relationship with Antonio.

BONUS TASK: 50 Credits: Look at the gallery of photographs from different productions:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/the-duchess-of-malfi/1960-2000-productions#&gid=1&pid=22>

Select three photographs, try to identify which part of the play they are taken from, and try to analyse how the productions help convey Webster's intentions.

8. Read the following article:

<https://performinghumanity.wordpress.com/2014/05/19/lycanthropy-as-a-mental-illness-in-websters-the-duchess-of-malfi/>

How else are 'hidden threats' presented and used within the play?

How does Webster prepare the audience for Ferdinand's final diagnosis?

9. Read the following article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2012/jan/20/jacobean-tragedies-changeling-duchess-malfi>

Write a detailed explanation of the different genres the play fits into.

BONUS TASK: Read the source material that the play is based on – William Painter's *Duchess of Malfy*: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/34840/34840-h/34840-h.htm>

VI. Critical Theory

Read the articles below, summarise the key features of the critical approach and then answer the following questions.

You will receive 150 credits for each completed task.

1. Analyse the text using a feminist critical approach. Read the following articles to help you answer the questions below:

<http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/projects/brightonline/issue-number-five/how-does-webster-reframe-concepts-of-gender>

<https://aroomofonesownbysimranarora.wordpress.com/2017/10/15/the-many-bodies-of-the-duchess-a-feminist-understanding-of-body-politics-in-the-duchess-of-malfi/>

To what extent does the presentation of the Duchess support or challenge widely-held beliefs about the role of women at the time the play was written?

2. Analyse the text using a Marxist critical approach. Read the following article to help you answer the questions below:

<https://thefablesoup.wordpress.com/2015/10/26/358/>

To what extent can the Cardinal and Ferdinand's exploitation of Bosola be seen as an abuse of power?

How does a Marxist reading affect the way we interpret Bosola's call for a society based on a meritocracy?

3. Analyse the text using a Psychoanalytical critical approach. Read the following article to help you answer the questions below:

<https://rosietibbs-co-uk.medium.com/psychoanalysis-theory-in-the-duchess-of-malfi-5d1029ae9e17>

Is Ferdinand truly motivated by an incestuous love for his sister or are there other factors that have affected his behaviour? Write an argument stating your viewpoint and fully supporting it with references to the text.

Academic Research

Choose a website/article to read and create a 10-point summary. Once you have created your summary you should then make notes on how the information can be linked to *The Duchess of Malfi* or any other critical theories you have learnt about.

50 credits for each completed task and 30 credits for each set of notes.

1. To what extent can *The Duchess of Malfi* be considered a morality play?

Consider the arguments within this article:

<http://www.luminarium.org/sevenlit/foxwebster.htm>

Can you find other articles that either challenge or support Timothy Fox's views?

2. How can different productions affect our interpretation of the text?

Before watching any of the videos, write down your ideas about the importance of lighting in the play, what it might be like to play the title role, and any ideas you have about the way music and dance are used in the play.

There are seven different videos attached to this link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2nF1ZyFkQ1q8RdSvrYYbZDW/the-duchess-of-malfi>

Watch each video and summarise the content.

How do the ideas contained within the videos contrast or support your ideas and opinions?

You may either write a detailed explanation or script the text and record your ideas.

3. Read this text:

<https://digitalcommons.bowdoin.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1090&context=honorsprojects>

There are three main elements to this research project:

- Pages 15 – 21 considers the presentation of women in Jacobean drama
- Pages 22 – 25 considers Calvinist observation in *The Duchess of Malfi* and explores ideas about how women are oppressed and controlled in the name of religion.
- Pages 26 - 35 are entitled: '*Torturing the Duchess: Revealing Patriarchal Power as Tyrannical and Abusive.*'

To what extent do you agree with the findings of the project?

VII. Exam Style Questions

100 credits for each completed essay. You can earn an additional 20 credits per essay if you choose to download the mark scheme from the exam board website -- awarding a mark and making a comment related to each AO

Edexcel Style Questions – Remember to relate your answers to context.

1. Explore Webster's presentation of the relationships between men and women in the play.
2. Explore Webster's presentation of power within the play.
3. Explore Webster's presentation of motherhood within the play.
4. Explore Webster's presentation of death within the play.
5. Explore Webster's presentation of corruption within the play.

Eduqas Style Questions – Remember to compare it with 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

1. How far would you agree that both Webster and Williams present sexuality and sexual activity as a destructive force in both plays?
2. 'The audience are shown a world rife with corruption and far from the ideal.' How far would you apply this comment to the two texts studied?
3. 'The patriarchal societies within the texts are maintained using male violence against women.' How far would you agree with this statement in light of the two texts you have studied.
4. 'Power and status are far greater motivators than wealth.' How far could you apply this comment to the texts you have studied?
5. 'Characters in tragedies are rarely honest and this flaw leads to their downfall.' To what extent do you agree with this statement in light of the two texts you have studied?

OCR Style Questions – Remember to choose one drama text and one poetry text.

In each question, you should refer to one Drama text and one Poetry text.

1. 'Marriage serves as a method of imprisoning both parties within the boundaries of society's expectations.'

In light of this view, consider the ways in which writers explore the theme of marriage and society's expectations.

2. 'It is impossible for characters to be both sexually dominant and moral.'

In light of this view, consider the ways in which writers explore the relationship between sexuality and morality.

3. 'Powerful women are always punished in literature while powerful men frequently escape their castigation.'

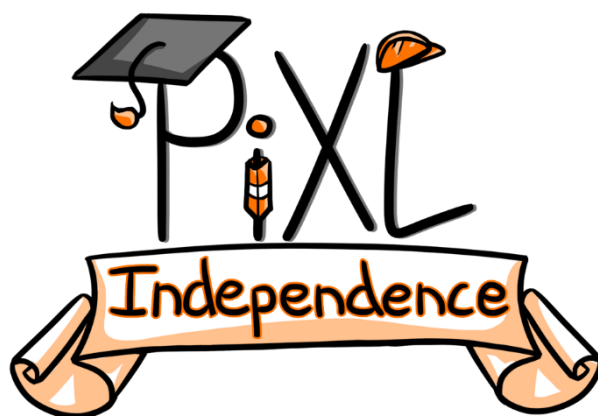
In light of this view, consider the ways in which writers explore ideas about power and punishment.

4. 'Of all the methods used to divide people, it is class that is most effective at splitting a community apart and setting neighbour against neighbour.'

In light of this view, consider how class affects the characters within the texts you have studied and explore how these effects are being presented.

5. 'Writers cannot resist imparting a moral message to their audience.'

In light of this view, consider how moral messages and morality are presented and used throughout the texts.



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