**Section A: Shakespeare**

***Macbeth***

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the Captain is talking to King Duncan about Macbeth and Banquo’s successful campaign on the battlefield.

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| CAPTAINFor brave Macbeth — well he deserves that name —Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel,Which smoked with bloody execution,Like Valour’s minion carved out his passage5 Till he faced the slave;Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,Till he unseamed him from the nave to th' chops,And fixed his head upon our battlements.DUNCAN O valiant cousin, worthy gentleman.CAPTAIN 10 As whence the sun 'gins his reflectionShipwrecking storms and direful thunders,So from that spring whence comfort seemed to comeDiscomfort swells. Mark, King of Scotland, mark,No sooner justice had, with valour armed,15 Compelled these skipping kerns to trust their heels,But the Norwegian lord, surveying vantage,With furbished arms and new supplies of men,Began a fresh assault.DUNCAN Dismayed not this our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?CAPTAIN 20 Yes, as sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.If I say sooth, I must report they wereAs cannons over-charged with double cracks,So they doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,15 Or memorize another Golgotha,I cannot tell. |

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

Write about:

* how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this speech
* how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in the play as a whole.

**[30marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**