Luca Contin 4ALS

Class test 20/04/17

Option B

**Introduction**

In the present text I’m going to analyse the use of language and choice of stylistic devices in the two extracts taken from Shakespeare’s tragedy, “Macbeth”, and the collection “Songs and Sonnets” written by John Donne.

**Expectation**

Right from the title, I can suppose that the two extracts are structured in different ways.

**Argumentations**

The first one is a monologue centred on the figure of Macbeth, king of Scotland, so, it may convey the feelings of the King. The second one is an argumentative poem and it starts with an invitation, “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”, a thesis that must be argumented and supported.

**Thesis**

The two texts tell about separation, but they are developed in different ways.

**Argumentations**

There are different semantic fields: in Macbeth’s monologue, there are lots of adjectives and nouns that remand the semantic fields of light (lighted fools or brief candle), darkness (dusty death or walking shadow) and time (time, tomorrow, from day to day or yesterdays, in particular the flow of time: metaphors like brief candle or walking shadow), typical characteristics of the Renaissance culture.

On the other side, Donne refers to semantic fields typical of courtly love (refined love, eyes, lips and hands, and parodies them), space (sublunary lovers’ love) and geometry, very unusual in poetry (twin compasses).

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, my opinion on the two poets’ primary intention is that Shakespeare wanted to convey the idea of resignation in front of fugacity of life, death and separation, while Donne wanted to convey an idea of awareness.