

## MY NOTES ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE

[Macbeth in Macbeth - Characters - AQA - GCSE English Literature Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

**MACBETH:**

Few roles→ main roles: Macbeth and his wife. Their ambition is the key of the tragedy and will eventually lead to their demise.

**MACBETH**→ complex character, he changes as the story progresses. A brave warrior and a leader. Victim to the witches' predictions. Through his soliloquies he questions himself and why should he kill the king, but he is persuaded by his wife.

After the King's murder he starts acting more and more cruelly. When he realises that he's doomed he tries to restore his heroic self but it's already too late.

He is ambitious→ wants to be King of Scotland→ tries to destroy the obstacles in this way.

Brave→ mighty warrior→ underlined by the use of strong verbs and adjectives

Changeable→ he keeps changing his mind about killing Duncan→ Lady Macbeth convinces him

Guilty conscience→ tormented by the crimes he committed→ overactive imagination; can't get a hold of his emotions

**SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

King→ rule by divine right→ regicide = the worst crime; King James I of England paranoid about assassination attempts→ a few month earlier: Gunpowder Plot to blow up the Parliament

**LADY MACBETH**→ ruthless ambition, power-hungry, she becomes mentally unstable because of the weight of her crimes and dies tragically

Ambitious→ even more so than her husband

Cunning→ she is manipulative and intelligent, she is deceptive

Conscience-stricken→ she cannot bear the weight of her cruel crimes→ she goes mad and this leads to her death

**SOCIAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Lady Macbeth aspires to be more than her husband's possession and strives to be queen and have power, a lot more than what society told her she would have as a woman.