

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY, SUMMER 2021
English Transition Work, Year 11 to 12

Shakespeare: King Lear

Your Task:

Explore Shakespeare's presentation of Gloucester at this point in the play.

[35 marks]

A full exam answer will include contextual analysis and use of critical interpretations. However, you will study these later in the course, for your answer you will only need to include language analysis - 1 side and a half of A4 lined paper.

Notes for the scene:

The scene opens in King Lear's palace. A conversation between Kent, Gloucester, and Gloucester's son Edmund introduces the play's primary plot: the king is planning to divide his kingdom among his three daughters. The audience also learns that Gloucester has two sons. The older, Edgar, is his legitimate heir, and the younger, Edmund, is illegitimate; however, Gloucester loves both sons equally. This information provides the subplot.

You may need to do some research for vocabulary – words in bold are suggestions.

ACT I: SCENE I. King Lear's palace.

Enter KENT, GLOUCESTER, and EDMUND

KENT

I thought the king had more affected the Duke of Albany than Cornwall.

GLOUCESTER

It did always seem so to us: but now, in the division of the kingdom, it appears not which of the dukes he values most; for equalities are so weighed, that curiosity in neither can make choice of either's **moiety**.

KENT

Is not this your son, my lord?

GLOUCESTER

His breeding, sir, hath been at my charge: I have so often blushed to acknowledge him, that now I am **brazed** to it.

KENT

I cannot conceive you.

GLOUCESTER

Sir, this young fellow's mother could: whereupon she grew round-wombed, and had, indeed, sir, a son for her cradle ere she had a husband for her bed. Do you smell a **fault**?

KENT

I cannot wish the fault undone, the issue of it being so proper.

GLOUCESTER

But I have, sir, a son by order of law, some year elder than this, who yet is no dearer in my account: though this **knave** came something **saucily** into the world before he was sent for, yet was his mother fair; there was good sport at his making, and the

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whoreson must be acknowledged. Do you know this noble gentleman, Edmund?

EDMUND

No, my lord.

GLOUCESTER

My lord of Kent: remember him hereafter as my honourable friend.

EDMUND

My services to your lordship.

KENT

I must love you, and sue to know you better.

EDMUND

Sir, I shall study deserving.

GLOUCESTER

He hath been out nine years, and away he shall again. The king is coming.

Your Starting Point:

1. You may need to research the scene in some more detail; especially Gloucester who the question focuses on.
2. Look at what the question IS asking you to focus on – ‘presentation of Gloucester’ can mean what we learn about him as a character physically or mentally.
3. Annotate the extract for literature techniques (word choice, metaphors etc...) that relate to the question.
4. Plan your answer: this type of analysis requires 2/3 detailed paragraphs of analysis. E.g:
 - Paragraph one: How Gloucester is presented when talking about Edmund
 - Paragraph two: How Gloucester is presented when talking about Edgar

How Your Work Will Be Assessed:

Grade A – Your work will include:

- Sophisticated, creative and individual response to extract
- Confident, perceptive application of literary concepts and terminology; high levels of technical accuracy and adopts a clear academic style and register
- Perceptive, sophisticated analysis and evaluation of writer’s use of language and dramatic techniques to create meaning
- Confident and apt textual support; confident discussion of implicit meaning

Grade C – Your work will include:

- Clearly engages with extract and response is mostly relevant
- Some sensible use of key concepts and generally accurate use and application of terminology; generally clearly organised; expression accurate and clear, though there may be some lapses
- Purposeful, detailed and mostly relevant analysis of writer’s use of language and dramatic techniques to create meaning
- Generally clear and accurate textual support; grasps some implicit meanings

Grade E – Your work will include:

- Superficial approach to extract that may show only partial/simple understanding

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- Grasp of basic terminology, though this may be uneven; errors in expression and lapses in clarity
- Identifies basic language and dramatic features
- Discussion tends to be narrative/descriptive in nature; offers some support in the form of quotations from or references to extract which may not always be relevant