

Section A: Shakespeare extract

Answer **one** question in this section.

In your response, you are required to analyse how meanings are shaped.

Either,

King Lear

1. With close reference to the language and imagery in this extract, analyse Shakespeare's presentation of Goneril and Albany at this point in the play. [45]

Enter ALBANY.

GONERIL	I have been worth the whistle.
ALBANY	O Goneril! You are not worth the dust which the rude wind Blows in your face. I fear your disposition: That nature which contemns its origin Cannot be border'd certain in itself; She that herself will sliver and disbranch From her material sap perforce must wither And come to deadly use.
GONERIL	No more; the text is foolish.
ALBANY	Wisdom and goodness to the vile seem vile; Filths savour but themselves. What have you done? Tigers, not daughters, what have you perform'd? A father, and a gracious aged man, Whose reverence even the head-lugg'd bear would lick, Most barbarous, most degenerate, have you madded. Could my good brother suffer you to do it? A man, a Prince, by him so benefited! If that the heavens do not their visible spirits Send quickly down to tame these vile offences, It will come: Humanity must perforce prey on itself, Like monsters of the deep.
GONERIL	Milk-liver'd man! That bear'st a cheek for blows, a head for wrongs; Who hast not in thy brows an eye discerning Thine honour from thy suffering; that not know'st Fools do those villains pity who are punish'd Ere they have done their mischief. Where's thy drum? France spreads his banners in our noiseless land, With plumed helm thy state begins to threat, Whil'st thou, a moral fool, sits still, and cries 'Alack, why does he so?'

(Act 4, Scene ii)