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

At this point in the play Macbeth has just murdered Duncan and has returned with the daggers to his wife Lady Macbeth.

MACBETH
Whence is that knocking?
How is't with me, when every noise appals me?
What hands are here? ha! they pluck out mine eyes.
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
Making the green one red.

Re-enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH
My hands are of your colour; but I shame
To wear a heart so white.

Knocking within

I hear a knocking
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;
A little water clears us of this deed:
How easy is it, then! Your constancy
Hath left you unattended.

Knocking within

Hark! more knocking.
Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us,
And show us to be watchers. Be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

MACBETH
To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

Starting with this conversation, write about how Shakespeare explores guilt in *Macbeth*. Write about:

• what Macbeth and Lady Macbeth say in this extract that reveals their attitudes to guilt
• how Shakespeare explores guilt in the play as a whole.

[30 marks] **AO4 [4 marks]**