

Y9 Transition Booklet

English Literature

Macbeth



WHY Contextual Research? :

Prior Knowledge:

What is WHAT, HOW, WHY and why do we use it in essay writing?

Research tasks.

When you begin your KS4 course, you will discover that there are three Assessment Objectives that you must meet in order to succeed.

These are:

AO1- How well you answer the exam question and how well you use the text to answer it.

AO2- How well you can analyse the writer's methods for deeper meaning.

AO3- The use of contextual information, what has influenced the writer in terms of their own life and the time that they live in.

To know a text well, you must spend time discovering the context of the text.

We are asking you to spend some time researching important contextual information for Shakespeare's Macbeth to help your study in Year 10.

You may use context to eventually write a point such as:

Religion during the Jacobean era is deeply relevant to Macbeth in several ways, reflecting the contemporary concerns and beliefs of Shakespeare's audience. The period was marked by intense religious tension and a profound sense of the supernatural, which is intricately woven into the fabric of the play. Many characters, like those living at the time of writing, are duplicitous and do not portray their true feelings and beliefs.

Research Task 1 - Religion:

Research task.

Prior Knowledge:

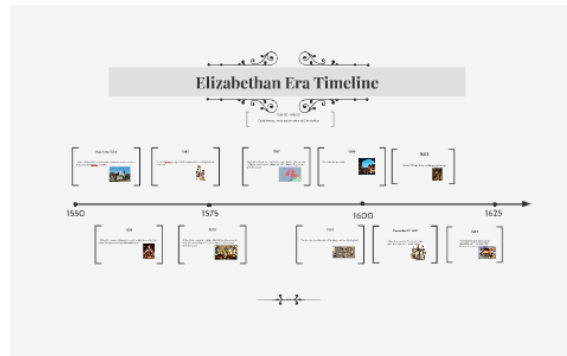
Think back to Othello.

What is the Social Order of the society at the time? Why was it important?



Research how people felt about religion during the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras and explain the conflict between the Catholics and Protestants. Plot a timeline of the monarchy during these periods, noting when it was under the rule of Catholicism and when it was under the rule of Protestantism.

You can arrange your timeline and summary in a written account



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Sentence starters:

In the Elizabethan and Jacobean era, great conflict between Catholics and Protestants. This was because...

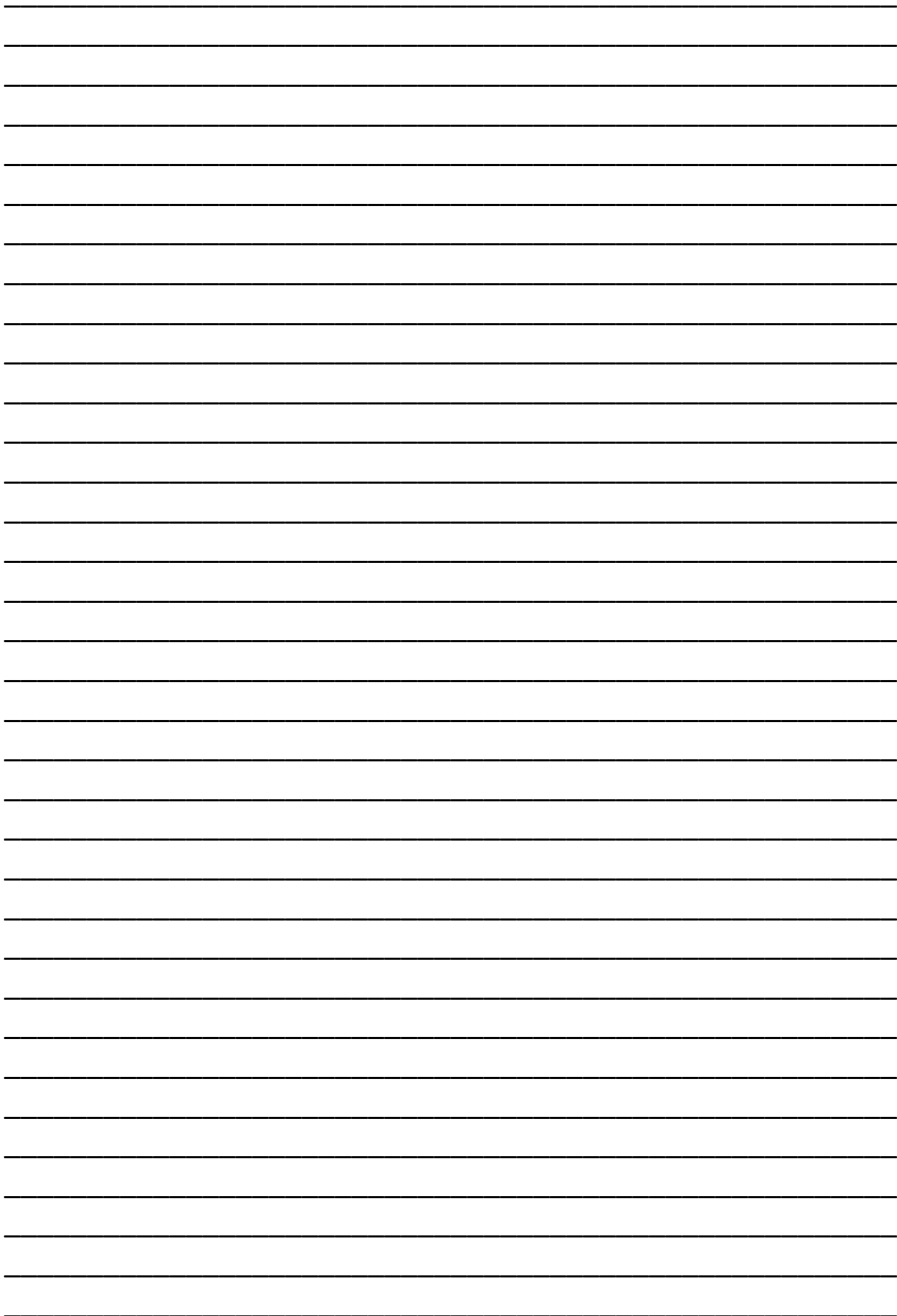
Vocabulary:

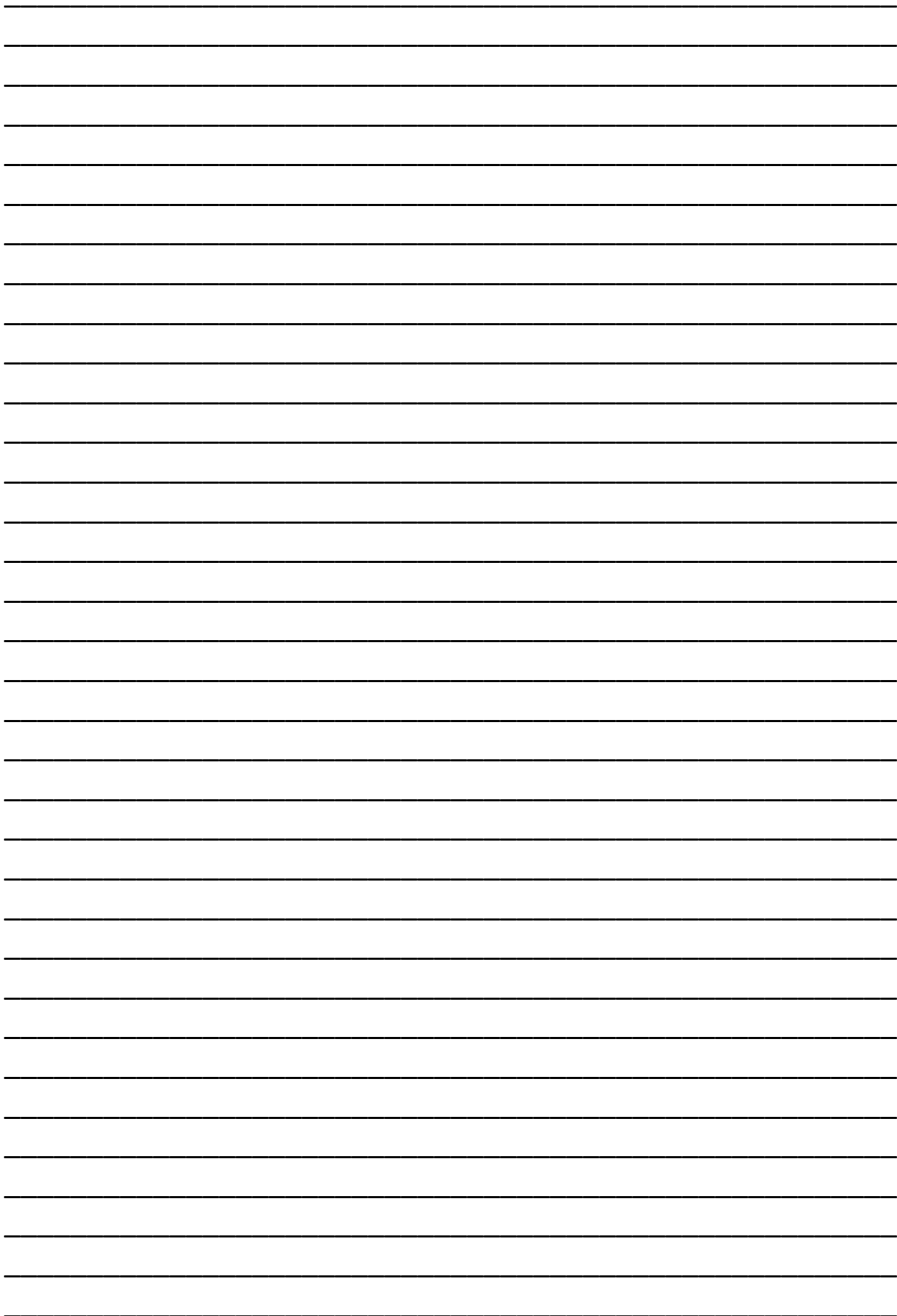
Therefore,
However,
Because, But, So...
Consequently,
Catholics,
Protestants,
Monarchy,
Succession,
Belief, Faith, conviction, doctrine,

Useful links below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zy2c4xs>

<https://www.hartfordstage.org/stagenotes/hamlet/elizabethan-era>





Research Task 2 – The Gunpowder Plot:

Prior Knowledge

Think back to Othello.

**What did the storm and war represent in the story?
How was violence used in the story?**



Research task.

Research The Gunpowder Plot and how it might have impacted on Shakespeare's decision to write Macbeth.

Your ideas should be presented in a written account.
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Sentence Starters:

The Gunpowder Plot was...

The Gunpowder Plot is significant to the play Macbeth because...

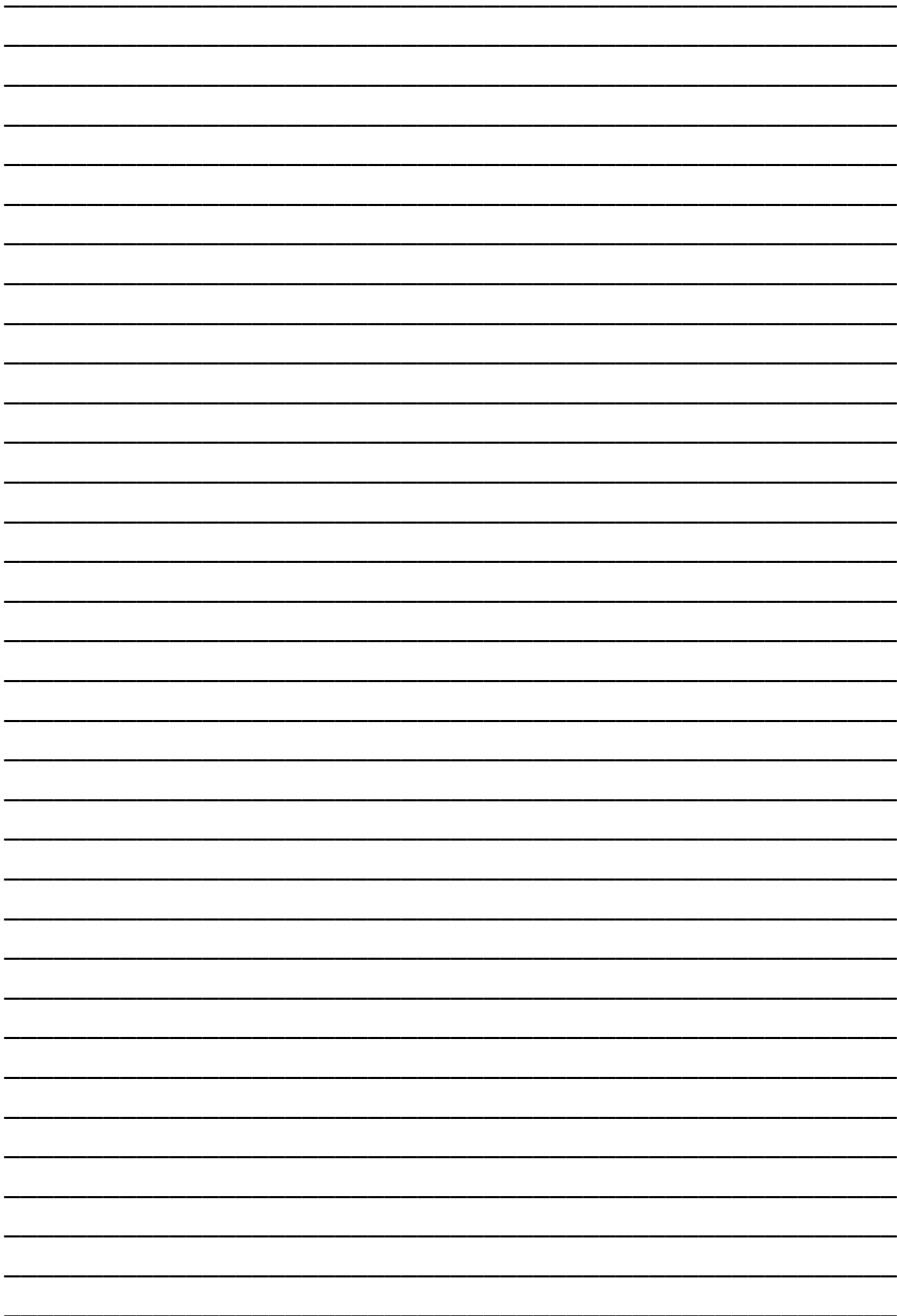
Vocabulary

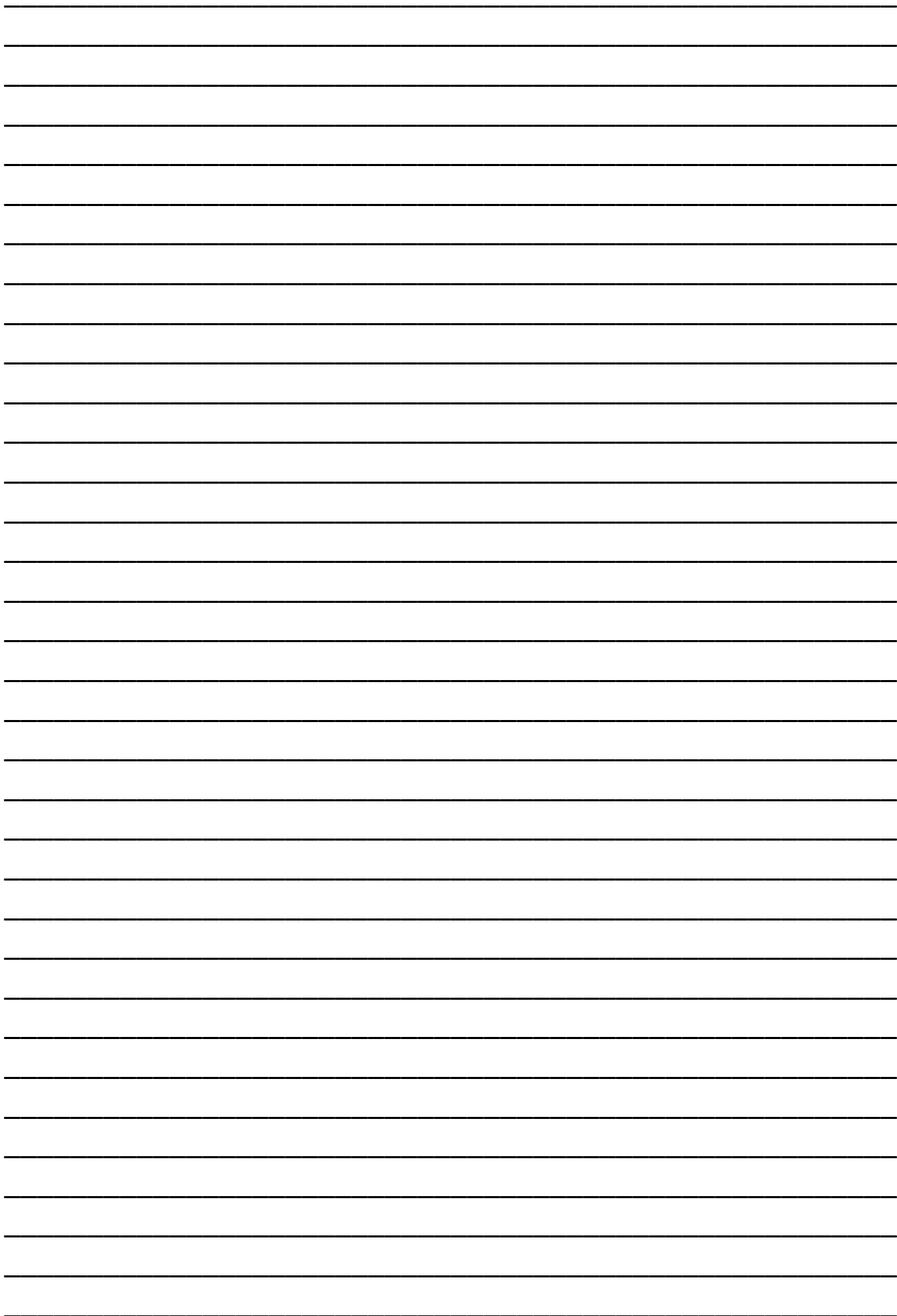
Rebellion
Plot, conspiracy, scheme,
Regicide
Because, But, So..
Therefore...
Consequences
Actions
Foiled, prevented, averted, hindered

Useful links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9JW-RE4-ZE&pp=ygUedGhllGd1bnBvd2RlciBwbG90IGFuZCBNYWNiZXRo>

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/discover/blogs-and-features/2014/11/05/the-gunpowder-plot-and-shakespeares-macbeth/>





Research Task 3 - Witches:



Prior Knowledge:

How were women treated in Othello? Why was this the case?

Research task.

Research the reasons why so many women were accused of witchcraft in the Jacobean period. Try to explain people's fascination with witches and why the witches in Macbeth are known as the 'Weird Sisters'.

You can present your findings in a written account.

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Sentence Starters:

The belief in Witches in the Jacobean era was because of...

Witches are significant to the play Macbeth because...

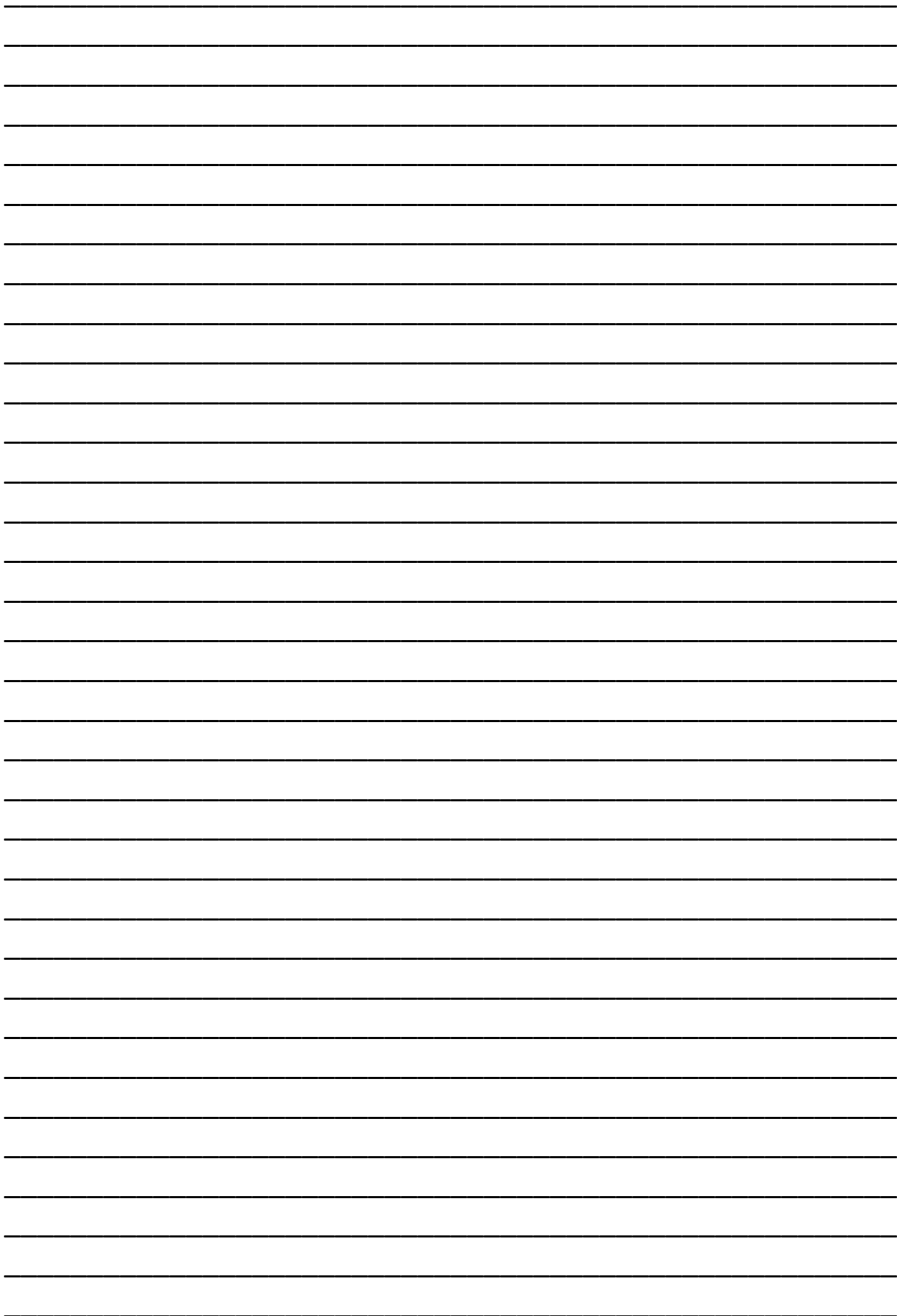
Vocabulary

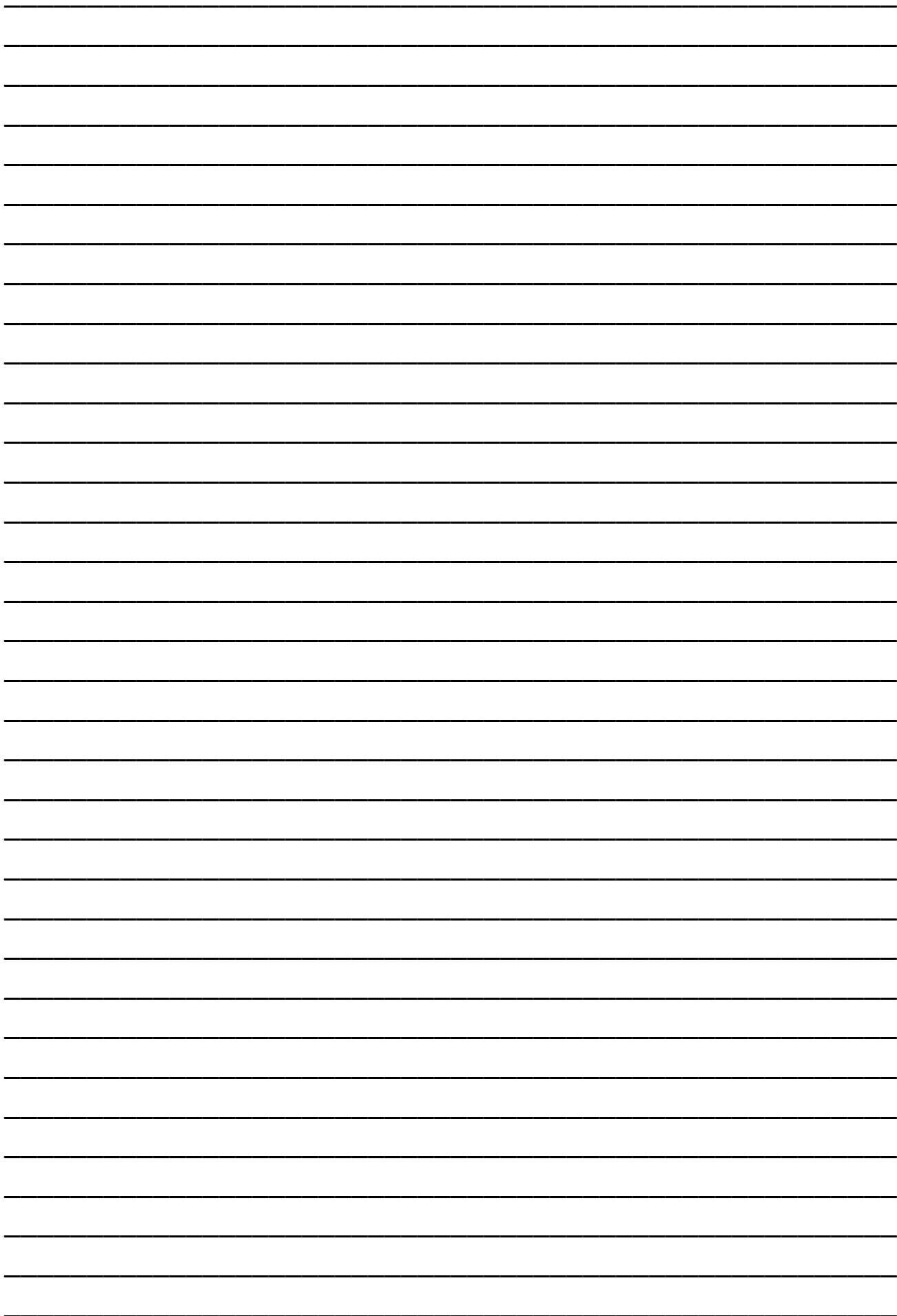
*Conjurer, witch, magician,
Belief, doctrine,
Devil, evil, malicious,
Because, but, so
Therefore,
However,
Patriarchal, male-dominated, male-centred,
Sexist, Misogynistic, Chauvinist,*

Useful links below:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/suranne-jones-investigating-witch-trials>

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/discover/blogs-andfeatures/2020/03/05/the-history-of-the-witches-in-macbeth/>





Research Task 4 - Women:



Prior Knowledge:

What does subservient mean?

Give an example of how Desdemona was subservient in the play.

Research task.

Research what life was like for women during the Jacobean period.

You can present your findings in a written account

Space has been provided on the next page for written accounts.

Sentence Starters:

Women in the Jacobean period were...

Women are significant to the play Macbeth because...

Vocabulary

Witch,

Female, gender, feminine,

Subservient,

Belief, doctrine,

Devil, evil, malicious,

Because, but, so

Therefore,

However,

Patriarchal, male-dominated, male-centred,

Sexist, Misogynistic, Chauvinist,

Useful links below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HVc_Aj0m9o&pp=ygUbYmJlHRIYWNolGVsaXphYmV0aGFulHdvdWVu

<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/life-and-times/social-context/women-in-shakespeares-england/>

