

Macbeth: contexts you could explore

	How is this context relevant to the play?	Connect this context to a precise part of the play (refer to Act and scene)
The Gunpowder Plot		
The importance of lineage and inheritance in Jacobean society		
King James's supposedly Scottish ancestry		
King James's book "Daemonologie"		
The genre of tragedy		
Women's roles in Elizabethan England		

<p>The Divine Right of Kings</p>		
<p>The very strictly hierarchical nature of Elizabethan society</p>		
<p>King James was Shakespeare's patron</p>		
<p>Many people had strong beliefs about heaven, hell and the afterlife.</p>		
<p>What it meant to be a good king in Shakespeare's day</p>		
<p>Many of Shakespeare's audience thought that people are influenced by the supernatural - ghosts and witches as well as God and the devil.</p>		
<p>Tricky one: People were critical of "equivocating" - this means telling half-truths - as England was Protestant, and many Catholics "equivocated" in order to avoid saying they were Catholic.</p>		