

Before you answer an extract question from the six that follow, use the framework below to help you plan.

**What does the text show you about the theme or idea in the question?**

*Show you understand what the text is about.*

**What language does Shakespeare use to show us this?**

*Identify two or three examples and comment on language choices.*

What relevant context do you know?

Which other parts of the play show the theme or idea in the question in a similar way?

*Identify the parts and jot down two or three quotations from each. Do this from memory first, before you check in the book.*

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play a fight has broken out on the streets of Verona.		
Benvolio	Part, fools! Put up your swords, you know not what you do.  <i>[Enter Tybalt.]</i>	
Tybalt	What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds? Turn thee Benvolio, look upon thy death.	
Benvolio	I do but keep the peace. Put up thy sword, Or manage it to part these men with me.	5
Tybalt	What, drawn, and talk of peace? I hate the word As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee. Have at thee, coward!  <i>[They fight.]</i> <i>[Enter officers and citizens with clubs and partisans]</i>	
Officers	Clubs, bills, and partisans! Strike! Beat them down! Down with the Capulets! Down with the Montagues!	10
<i>[Enter Capulet in his gown, and Lady Capulet.]</i>		
Capulet	What noise is this? Give me my long sword, ho!	
Lady Capulet	A crutch, a crutch! Why call you for a sword?	
Capulet	My sword, I say! Old Montague is come. And flourishes his blade in spite of me.  <i>[Enter Montague and his Lady Montague.]</i>	
Montague	Thou villain Capulet!— Hold me not, let me go.	15
Lady Montague	Thou shalt not stir one foot to seek a foe.	

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents violence in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents violence in this scene
- how Shakespeare presents violence in the rest of the play.

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

At this point in the play *Romeo and Juliet* are meeting on Juliet's balcony. Romeo has been swearing his true love for Juliet.

**Juliet** O, swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her circlèd orb,  
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

**Romeo** What shall I swear by?

**Juliet** Do not swear at all: 5  
Or if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,  
Which is the god of my idolatry,  
And I'll believe thee.

**Romeo** If my heart's dear love—

**Juliet** Well, do not swear. Although I joy in thee, 10  
I have no joy of this contract tonight:  
It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden,  
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be  
Ere one can say 'It lightens'. Sweet, goodnight!  
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath, 15  
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.  
Goodnight, goodnight, as sweet repose and rest  
Come to thy heart as that within my breast!

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think that Shakespeare presents Juliet as a mature young woman.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Juliet in this scene
- how Shakespeare presents Juliet in the rest of the play.

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Romeo learns that Mercutio has died following his fight with Tybalt.

Benvolio	O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio is dead! That gallant spirit hath aspired the clouds, Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.	
Romeo	This day's black fate on more days doth depend. This but begins the woe others must end.	5
	<i>[Enter Tybalt.]</i>	
Benvolio	Here comes the furious Tybalt back again.	
Romeo	Alive in triumph, and Mercutio slain! Away to heaven, respective lenity, And fire-eyed fury be my conduct now! Now, Tybalt, take the 'villain' back again, That late thou gav'st me, for Mercutio's soul Is but a little way above our heads, Staying for thine to keep him company: Either thou or I, or both, must go with him.	10
Tybalt	Thou, wretched boy, that didst consort him here, Shalt with him hence.	15
Romeo	This shall determine that.	
	<i>[They fight. Tybalt falls.]</i>	
Benvolio	Romeo, away, begone! The citizens are up, and Tybalt slain. Stand not amazed: The Prince will doom thee death, If thou art taken. Hence, begone, away.	20

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Romeo as reckless.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo in the play as a whole.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 4 then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Mercutio is trying to cheer up Romeo before they attend the Capulets' party.

Romeo	Give me a torch, I am not for this ambling. Being but heavy, I will bear the light.	
Mercutio	Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.	
Romeo	Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes With nimble soles. I have a soul of lead So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.	5
Mercutio	You are a lover, borrow Cupid's wings And soar with them above a common bound.	
Romeo	I am too sore enpierced with his shaft To soar with his light feathers and so bound, I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe: Under love's heavy burden do I sink.	10
Mercutio	And to sink in it should you burden love, Too great oppression for a tender thing.	
Romeo	Is love a tender thing? It is too rough, Too rude, too boist'rous, and it pricks like thorn.	15
Mercutio	If love be rough with you, be rough with love: Prick love for pricking, and you beat love down ...	

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Mercutio as a humorous young man.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Mercutio in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Mercutio in the play as a whole.

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 3 then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Juliet is about to drink the sleeping potion which the Friar has given her.

**Juliet** What if it be a poison, which the Friar  
Subtly hath ministered to have me dead,  
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonoured  
Because he married me before to Romeo?  
I fear it is, and yet methinks it should not, 5  
For he hath still been tried a holy man.  
How if, when I am laid into the tomb,  
I wake before the time that Romeo  
Come to redeem me? There's a fearful point!  
Shall I not then be stifled in the vault, 10  
To whose foul mouth no healthsome air breathes  
in,  
And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes?  
Or if I live, is it not very like,  
The horrible conceit of death and night, 15  
Together with the terror of the place —  
As in a vault, an ancient receptacle,  
Where for this many hundred years the bones  
Of all my buried ancestors are packed:  
Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth, 20  
Lies fest'ring in his shroud, where, as they say,  
At some hours in the night spirits resort —  
Alack, alack, is it not like that I,  
So early waking, what with loathsome smells,  
And shrieks like mandrakes torn out of the earth, 25  
That living mortals, hearing them, run mad —  
O, if I wake, shall I not be distraught,  
Environèd with all these hideous fears?  
And madly play with my forefather's joints?  
And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his shroud? 30  
And in this rage, with some great kinsman's bone,  
As with a club, dash out my desp'rate brains?  
O look! Methinks I see my cousin's ghost  
Seeking out Romeo that did spit his body  
Upon a rapier's point! Stay, Tybalt, stay! 35  
Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! Here's drink. I drink to  
thee.  
*[She drinks and falls upon her bed within the  
curtains.]*

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think that Shakespeare presents Juliet as a frightened young woman.

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents Juliet in this scene
- How Shakespeare presents Juliet in the rest of the play.

Read the following extract from the Prologue to the play and then answer the question that follows.

This is the beginning of the play and the Chorus is explaining the story of the play.

*[Enter Chorus]*

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes 5  
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life,  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows;  
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-marked love;  
And the continuance of their parents' rage, 10  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which, if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

*[Chorus exits.]*

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think that Shakespeare presents *Romeo and Juliet* as fated to die.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents fate in this scene
- how Shakespeare presents fate in the rest of the play.

