

# AQA English Literature GCSE

## Romeo and Juliet: Question Bank *Relationships*



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**Please note:** *these questions have been written and formatted in the same style as AQA exam questions. You can use them to help with extract questions and timed essay practice. These questions have NOT been taken from past papers and they have NOT been made by AQA.*



## 1. Romeo and Mercutio

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio have encountered the Capulet's in a public area.

### **ROMEO**

I do protest, I never injured thee  
But love thee better than thou canst devise,  
Till thou shalt know the reason of my love:  
And so, good Capulet,--which name I tender  
As dearly as my own,--be satisfied.

### **MERCUTIO**

O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!  
Alla stoccata carries it away.  
*Draws*  
Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

### **TYBALT**

What wouldst thou have with me?

### **MERCUTIO**

Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and as you shall use me hereafter, drybeat the rest of the eight. Will you pluck your sword out of his pitcher by the ears? make haste, lest mine be about your ears ere it be out.

### **TYBALT**

I am for you.  
*Drawing*

### **ROMEO**

Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

### **MERCUTIO**

Come, sir, your passado.  
*They fight*



**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with Mercutio as toxic in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with Mercutio at this moment in the play.
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with Mercutio in the play as a whole.

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



## 2. Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Romeo and Juliet have encountered for the very first time.

**ROMEO**

[To JULIET] If I profane with my unworhiest hand  
This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this:  
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand  
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

**JULIET**

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,  
Which mannerly devotion shows in this;  
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,  
And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

**ROMEO**

Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

**JULIET**

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

**ROMEO**

O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;  
They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

**JULIET**

Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

**ROMEO**

Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take.  
Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purged.

**JULIET**

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

**ROMEO**

Sin from thy lips? O trespass sweetly urged! Give me my sin again.





**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with Juliet as impulsive in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with Juliet at this moment in the play.
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with Juliet in the play as a whole.

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



### 3. Romeo and Friar Laurence

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 3 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Romeo has just left Juliet and makes his way to the Friar's cell.

**ROMEO**

Thou chid'st me off for loving Rosaline.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

**ROMEO**

And bad'st me bury love.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Not in a grave,  
To lay one in, another out to have.

**ROMEO**

I pray thee, chide not; she whom I love now  
Doth grace for grace and love for love allow;  
The other did not so.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

O, she knew well  
Thy love did read by rote and could not spell.  
But come, young waverer, come, go with me,  
In one respect I'll thy assistant be;  
For this alliance may so happy prove,  
To turn your households' rancour to pure love.

**ROMEO**

O, let us hence; I stand on sudden haste.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.  
Exeunt





**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with the Friar as beneficial in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with the Friar at this moment in the play.
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's relationship with the Friar in the play as a whole.

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





## 4. The Capulet and Montague households

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

At this point in the play, Shakespeare introduces his audience to the story of *Romeo and Juliet*.

### PROLOGUE

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  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
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.

**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents the relationship between the Capulet household and the Montague household as harmful in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents the relationship between Capulets and Montagues at this moment in the play.
- How Shakespeare presents the relationship between Capulets and Montagues in the play as a whole.

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



## 5. Romeo and Rosaline

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, Romeo speaks of Rosaline to Benvolio.

### **ROMEO**

Alas, that love, whose view is muffled still,  
Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!  
Where shall we dine? O me! What fray was here?  
Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all.  
Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.  
Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!  
O any thing, of nothing first create!  
O heavy lightness! serious vanity!  
Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!  
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!  
Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!  
This love feel I, that feel no love in this. Dost thou not laugh?

### **BENVOLIO**

No, coz, I rather weep.

### **ROMEO**

Good heart, at what?

### **BENVOLIO**

At thy good heart's oppression.

**01) Explore how far Shakespeare uses Romeo's relationship with Rosaline to explore unrequited love in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo and Rosaline's relationship at this moment in the play.
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo and Rosaline's relationship in the play as a whole.

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



## 6. Juliet and Lord Capulet

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 5 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Juliet has just told her father that she refuses to marry Paris.

### **CAPULET**

How now, how now, chop-logic!  
What is this? 'Proud,' and 'I thank you,' and 'I thank you not;'  
And yet 'not proud,' mistress minion, you,  
Thank me no thankings, nor, proud me no prouds,  
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next,  
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,  
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.  
Out, you green-sickness carrion! out, you baggage! You tallow-face!

### **LADY CAPULET**

Fie, fie! what, are you mad?

### **JULIET**

Good father, I beseech you on my knees,  
Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

### **CAPULET**

Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch!  
I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,  
Or never after look me in the face:  
Speak not, reply not, do not answer me;  
My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest  
That God had lent us but this only child;  
But now I see this one is one too much,  
And that we have a curse in having her:  
Out on her, hilding!





**01) Explore how Shakespeare uses Juliet's relationship with Lord Capulet to explore patriarchy in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- How Juliet's relationship with Lord Capulet is presented at this moment in the play.
- How Juliet's relationship with Lord Capulet is presented in the play as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**



## 7. Juliet and the Nurse

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 5 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the Nurse has just visited Romeo and is now conversing with Juliet.

**Nurse**

O God's lady dear! Are you so hot? marry, come up,  
I trow; Is this the poultice for my aching bones?  
Henceforward do your messages yourself.

**JULIET**

Here's such a coil! come, what says Romeo?

**Nurse**

Have you got leave to go to shrift to-day?

**JULIET**

I have.

**Nurse**

Then hie you hence to Friar Laurence' cell; There stays a husband to make you a wife:  
Now comes the wanton blood up in your cheeks, They'll be in scarlet straight at any  
news. Hie you to church; I must another way, To fetch a ladder, by the which your love  
Must climb a bird's nest soon when it is dark: I am the drudge and toil in your delight, But  
you shall bear the burden soon at night. Go; I'll to dinner: hie you to the cell.

**JULIET**

Hie to high fortune! Honest nurse, farewell.

*Exeunt*

**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents the Nurse's relationship with Juliet as devoted in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- How the Nurse's relationship with Juliet is presented at this moment in the play.
- How the Nurse's relationship with Juliet is presented in the play as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**



## 8. Juliet and Lady Capulet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 3 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Lady Capulet calls the Nurse in order to speak with her daughter.

**LADY CAPULET**

Nurse, where's my daughter? call her forth to me.

**Nurse**

Now, by my maidenhead, at twelve year old,  
I bade her come.  
What, lamb! what, ladybird!  
God forbid! Where's this girl? What, Juliet!  
Enter JULIET

**JULIET**

How now! who calls?

**Nurse**

Your mother.

**JULIET**

Madam, I am here.  
What is your will?

**LADY CAPULET**

This is the matter:--Nurse, give leave awhile,  
We must talk in secret:--nurse, come back again;  
I have remember'd me, thou's hear our counsel.  
Thou know'st my daughter's of a pretty age.

**Nurse**

Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour.

**LADY CAPULET**

She's not fourteen.

**Nurse**

I'll lay fourteen of my teeth,-- And yet, to my teeth be it spoken,  
I have but four-- She is not fourteen.  
How long is it now To Lammas-tide?

**LADY CAPULET**

A fortnight and odd days.



**01) Explore how Shakespeare uses the relationship between Juliet and Lady Capulet to explore parenthood in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- How Juliet's relationship with Lady Capulet is presented at this moment in the play.
- How Juliet's relationship with Lady Capulet is presented in the play as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**

