

# AQA English Literature GCSE

## Romeo and Juliet: Question Bank

### *Characters*

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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

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 is speaking to Juliet after she had called for him on her balcony not knowing that he was actually there in hiding.

**ROMEO**

I take thee at thy word: Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized; Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

**JULIET**

What man art thou that thus bescreen'd in night So stumblest on my counsel?

**ROMEO**

By a name I know not how to tell thee who I am: My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself, Because it is an enemy to thee; Had I it written, I would tear the word.

**JULIET**

My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound: Art thou not Romeo and a Montague?

**ROMEO**

Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

**JULIET**

How camest thou hither, tell me, and wherefore? The orchard walls are high and hard to climb, And the place death, considering who thou art, If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

**ROMEO**

With love's light wings did I o'er-perch these walls; For stony limits cannot hold love out, And what love can do that dares love attempt; Therefore thy kinsmen are no let to me.





**01) Explore how Shakespeare presents Romeo as a character who is passionate in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

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

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



## 2. Juliet

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

At this point in the play, Juliet has just woken up and engages in conversation with the Friar.

### **JULIET**

O comfortable friar! Where is my lord?

I do remember well where I should be,  
And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

*Noise within*

### **FRIAR LAURENCE**

I hear some noise. Lady, come from that nest  
Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep:

A greater power than we can contradict  
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.

Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;  
And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee

Among a sisterhood of holy nuns:  
Stay not to question, for the watch is coming;

Come, go, good Juliet,

*Noise again*

I dare no longer stay.

### **JULIET**

Go, get thee hence, for I will not away.

*Exit FRIAR LAURENCE*

What's here? a cup, closed in my true love's hand?

Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:

O churl! drunk all, and left no friendly drop

To help me after? I will kiss thy lips;

Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,

To make die with a restorative.

Kisses him

Thy lips are warm.



**First Watchman**

[Within] Lead, boy: which way?

**JULIET**

Yea, noise? then I'll be brief. O happy dagger!

*Snatching ROMEO's dagger*

This is thy sheath;

*Stabs herself*

there rust, and let me die.

*Falls on ROMEO's body, and dies.*

**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents Juliet as a character who is determined in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Juliet at this moment in the play.
- how Shakespeare presents Juliet in the play as a whole.

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



### 3. Friar Lawrence

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 asked the Friar to marry him and Juliet.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Be plain, good son, and homely in thy drift;  
Riddling confession finds but riddling shrift.

**ROMEO**

Then plainly know my heart's dear love is set  
On the fair daughter of rich Capulet:  
As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine;  
And all combined, save what thou must combine  
By holy marriage: when and where and how  
We met, we woo'd and made exchange of vow,  
I'll tell thee as we pass; but this I pray,  
That thou consent to marry us to-day.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!  
Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,  
So soon forsaken? young men's love then lies  
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.  
Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine  
Hath wash'd thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline!  
How much salt water thrown away in waste,  
To season love, that of it doth not taste!  
The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,  
Thy old groans ring yet in my ancient ears;  
Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit  
Of an old tear that is not wash'd off yet:  
If e'er thou wast thyself and these woes thine,  
Thou and these woes were all for Rosaline:  
And art thou changed? pronounce this sentence then,  
Women may fall, when there's no strength in men.





**ROMEO**

Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents Friar Lawrence as an advisor to Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Friar Lawrence at this moment in the play.
- how Shakespeare presents Friar Lawrence in the play as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

**AO4 [4 marks]**





## 4. Benvolio

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, Mercutio is eager to start conflict with the Capulet's.

A public place.

*Enter MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO, Page, and Servants*

### **BENVOLIO**

I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire:  
The day is hot, the Capulets abroad,  
And, if we meet, we shall not scape a brawl;  
For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.

### **MERCUTIO**

Thou art like one of those fellows that when he enters the confines of a tavern claps me his sword upon the table and says 'God send me no need of thee!' and, by the operation of the second cup, draws it on the drawer, when indeed there is no need.

### **BENVOLIO**

Am I like such a fellow?

### **MERCUTIO**

Come, come, thou art as hot a Jack in thy mood as any in Italy, and as soon moved to be moody, and as soon moody to be moved.

### **BENVOLIO**

And what to?





**01) Explore how far Shakespeare presents Benvolio as a peacemaker in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- How Shakespeare presents Benvolio at this moment in the play.
- How Shakespeare presents Benvolio in the play as a whole.

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



## 5. 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 far Shakespeare presents Lord Capulet as protective in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Lord Capulet at this moment in the play.
- how Shakespeare presents Lord Capulet in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]



## 6. The Nurse

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 has called to speak with Juliet.

A room in Capulet's house.

*Enter LADY CAPULET and Nurse*

**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 far Shakespeare presents the Nurse as a successful mother figure to Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- How the Nurse is presented at this moment in the play.
- How the Nurse is presented in the play as a whole.

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



## 7. Mercutio

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 4 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Romeo speaks of Rosaline who had forsaken him.

### 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.

### 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 boisterous, and it pricks like thorn.

### MERCUTIO

If love be rough with you, be rough with love;  
Prick love for pricking, and you beat love down.  
Give me a case to put my visage in:  
A visor for a visor! what care I  
What curious eye doth quote deformities?  
Here are the beetle brows shall blush for me.

**01) Explore how Shakespeare uses Mercutio to explore different perceptions on love in *Romeo and Juliet*.**

Write about:

- How Mercutio is presented at this moment in the play.
- How Mercutio is presented in the play as a whole.

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

