



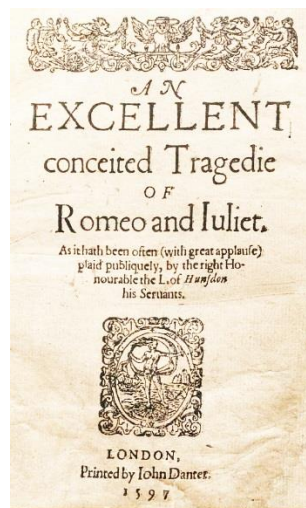
The Warriner School
English Department



GCSE English Literature

2015-2017

Sample Exam Questions Bank



William Shakespeare's
Romeo and Juliet

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Use these questions to practice and prepare for your English Literature Paper 1 examination.

AO1	<p>Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: Maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response; Use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.</p>	(12 marks)
AO2	<p>Analyse the language, form and structure used to create meanings and effects, using relevant terminology where appropriate. Explain how your quote supports your point; Zoom in on specific words and analyse their effect; Identify techniques such as simile, metaphor, personification etc. when appropriate.</p>	(12 marks)
AO3	<p>Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written. Comment on the writer’s intention (what does he want us to think about?); Discuss how different readers may be affected by what happens; Show awareness of how context impacts the plot.</p>	(6 marks)
AO4	<p>Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.</p> <p>4 marks – spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy, and consistently use vocabulary and sentence structures to effectively control meaning.</p> <p>2-3 marks – spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy, and use a considerable range of vocabulary and sentence structures to control meaning.</p> <p>1 mark – spell and punctuate reasonably accurately, and use a reasonable range of vocabulary and sentence structures; any errors do not hinder meaning.</p>	(4 marks)

Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play the Chorus is introducing both families.

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-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,
Which, but their children's end, naught 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.

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the inevitability of fate in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the significance of fate in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents the significance of fate in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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 two Capulet boys are joking with each other.

SAMPSON Gregory, on my word we'll not carry coals.

GREGORY No, for then we should be colliers.

SAMPSON I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw.

GREGORY Ay, while you live, draw your neck out of collar.

SAMPSON I strike quickly, being moved.

GREGORY But thou art not quickly moved to strike.

SAMPSON A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

GREGORY To move is to stir, and to be valiant is to stand. Therefore if thou art moved thou runn'st away.

SAMPSON A dog of that house shall move me to stand. I will take the wall of any man or maid of Montague's.

GREGORY That shows thee a weak slave, for the weakest goes to the wall.

SAMPSON 'Tis true, and therefore women, being the weaker vessels, are ever thrust to the wall. Therefore I will push Montague's men from the wall and thrust his maids to the wall.

GREGORY The quarrel is between our masters and us their men.

SAMPSON 'Tis all one. I will show myself a tyrant.

When I have fought with the men, I will be civil with the maids; I will cut off their heads.

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents comedy as a key theme in the play.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Capulet is discussing the proposed marriage of Juliet and Paris.

CAPULET

And too soon marred are those so early made.
Earth hath swallowed all my hopes but she;
She's the hopeful lady of my earth.
But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart;
My will to her consent is but a part.
And, she agreed, within her scope of choice
Lies my consent and fair according voice.
This night I hold an old accustomed feast,
Whereto I have invited many a guest
Such as I love; and you among the store,
One more, most welcome, makes my number more.
At my poor house look to behold this night
Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light.
Such comfort as do lusty young men feel
When well-appareled April on the heel
Of limping winter treads, even such delight

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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 the Nurse keeps interrupting Lady Capulet's conversation with Juliet.

NURSE

Even or odd, of all days in the year,
Come Lammas Eve at night shall she be fourteen.
Susan and she (God rest all Christian souls!)
Were of an age. Well, Susan is with God;
She was too good for me. But, as I said,
On Lammas Eve at night shall she be fourteen.
That shall she. Marry, I remember it well.
'Tis since the earthquake now eleven years,
And she was weaned (I never shall forget it)
Of all the days of the year, upon that day.
For I had then laid wormwood to my dug,
Sitting in the sun under the dovehouse wall.
My lord and you were then at Mantua.
Nay, I do bear a brain. But, as I said,
When it did taste the wormwood on the nipple
Of my dug and felt it bitter, pretty fool,
To see it tetchy and fall out with 'the' dug.
'Shake,' quoth the dovehouse. 'Twas no need, I
trow,
To bid me trudge.
And since that time it is eleven years.
For then she could stand high-lone. Nay, by th'
rood,
She could have run and waddled all about,
For even the day before, she broke her brow,
And then my husband (God be with his soul,
He was a merry man) took up the child.

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the Nurse as a motherly figure to Juliet.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the Nurse as a motherly figure in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents the Nurse as motherly figure in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play the Romeo declares his love to Juliet.

ROMEO

O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

JULIET

What satisfaction canst thou have tonight?

ROMEO

Th' exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

JULIET

I gave thee mine before thou didst request it,
And yet I would it were to give again.

ROMEO

Wouldst thou withdraw it? For what purpose, love?

JULIET

But to be frank and give it thee again.

And yet I wish but for the thing I have.

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep. The more I give to thee,
The more I have, for both are infinite.

['Nurse calls from within.']

I hear some noise within. Dear love, adieu.—

Anon, good nurse.—Sweet Montague, be true.

Stay but a little; I will come again. *['She exits.']*

ROMEO

O blessèd, blessèd night! I am afeard,
Being in night, all this is but a dream,
Too flattering sweet to be substantial.

Starting with this extract, explain how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Romeo and Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Romeo and Juliet in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Romeo and Juliet in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play the Romeo is discussing his feelings with Friar Lawrence.

FRIAR LAWRENCE

Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!

Is Rosaline, that 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 washed 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 yet ringing in mine ancient ears.

Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit

Of an old tear that is not washed 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 LAWRENCE

For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

ROMEO

And bad'st me bury love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Not in a grave

To lay one in, another out to have.

ROMEO

I pray thee, chide me not. Her I love now

Doth grace for grace and love for love allow.

The other did not so.

Starting with this extract, explain how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards love in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards love in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards love in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Mercutio rejects Tybalt's suggestion that they leave the streets of Verona.

MERCUTIO Nay, an there were two such, we should have none shortly, for one would kill the other. Thou—why, thou wilt quarrel with a man that hath a hair more or a hair less in his beard than thou hast. Thou wilt quarrel with a man for cracking nuts, having no other reason but because thou hast hazel eyes. What eye but such an eye would spy out such a quarrel? Thy head is as full of quarrels as an egg is full of meat, and yet thy head hath been beaten as addle as an egg for quarreling. Thou hast quarreled with a man for coughing in the street because he hath wakened thy dog that hath lain asleep in the sun. Didst thou not fall out with a tailor for wearing his new doublet before Easter? With another, for tying his new shoes with old ribbon? And yet thou wilt tutor me from quarreling?

Starting with this extract, explain how Shakespeare presents Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Juliet reacts to the news of Tybalt's death.

JULIET
Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?
Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy name
When I, thy three-hours wife, have mangled it?
But wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin?
That villain cousin would have killed my husband.
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring;
Your tributary drops belong to woe,
Which you, mistaking, offer up to joy.
My husband lives, that Tybalt would have slain,
And Tybalt's dead, that would have slain my husband.
All this is comfort. Wherefore weep I then?
Some word there was, worsè than Tybalt's death,
That murdered me. I would forget it fain,
But, O, it presses to my memory
Like damnèd guilty deeds to sinners' minds:
"Tybalt is dead and Romeo banishèd."
That "banishèd," that one word "banishèd,"
Hath slain ten thousand Tybalts. Tybalt's death
Was woe enough if it had ended there;
Or, if sour woe delights in fellowship
And needly will be ranked with other griefs,
Why followed not, when she said "Tybalt's dead,"
"Thy father" or "thy mother," nay, or both,
Which modern lamentation might have moved?
But with a rearward following Tybalt's death,
"Romeo is banishèd." To speak that word
Is father, mother, Tybalt, Romeo, Juliet,
All slain, all dead. "Romeo is banishèd."
There is no end, no limit, measure, bound,
In that word's death. No words can that woe sound.
Where is my father and my mother, nurse?

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents death in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the significance of death in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents the significance of death in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Romeo contemplates life without Juliet.

ROMEO

'Tis torture and not mercy. Heaven is here
Where Juliet lives, and every cat and dog
And little mouse, every unworthy thing,
Live here in heaven and may look on her,
But Romeo may not. More validity,
More honorable state, more courtship lives
In carrion flies than Romeo. They may seize
On the white wonder of dear Juliet's hand
And steal immortal blessing from her lips,
Who even in pure and vestal modesty
Still blush, as thinking their own kisses sin;
But Romeo may not; he is banishèd.
Flies may do this, but I from this must fly.
They are free men, but I am banishèd.
And sayest thou yet that exile is not death?
Hadst thou no poison mixed, no sharp-ground
knife,
No sudden mean of death, though ne'er so mean,
But "banishèd" to kill me? "Banishèd"?
O friar, the damnèd use that word in hell.
Howling attends it. How hast thou the heart,
Being a divine, a ghostly confessor,
A sin absolver, and my friend professed,
To mangle me with that word "banishèd"?

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Capulet discusses Juliet's marriage with Paris.

CAPULET

Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender
Of my child's love. I think she will **be** ruled
In all respects by me. Nay, more, I doubt it not.—
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed.
Acquaint her here of my son Paris' love,
And bid her—mark you me?—on Wednesday
next—

But soft, what day is this?

PARIS Monday, my lord.

CAPULET

Monday, ha ha! Well, Wednesday is too soon.
O' Thursday let it be.—O' Thursday, tell her,
She shall be married to this noble earl.—
Will you be ready? Do you like this haste?
We'll keep no great ado: a friend or two.
For hark you, Tybalt being slain so late,
It may be thought we held him carelessly,
Being our kinsman, if we revel much.
Therefore we'll have some half a dozen friends,
And there an end. But what say you to Thursday?

PARIS

My lord, I would that Thursday were tomorrow.

CAPULET

Well, get you gone. O' Thursday be it, then.
To Lady Capulet. Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed.
Prepare her, wife, against this wedding day.—
Farewell, my lord.—Light to my chamber, ho!—
Afore me, it is so very late that we
May call it early by and by.—Good night.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage Romeo and Juliet.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Juliet pleads with Friar Lawrence to help her fake her own death.

JULIET

Tell me not, friar, that thou hearest of this,
Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it.

If in thy wisdom thou canst give no help,

Do thou but call my resolution wise,

And with this knife I'll help it presently.

「She shows him her knife.」

God joined my heart and Romeo's, thou our hands;

And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo's sealed,

Shall be the label to another deed,

Or my true heart with treacherous revolt

Turn to another, this shall slay them both.

Therefore out of thy long-experienced time

Give me some present counsel, or, behold,

'Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife

Shall play the umpire, arbitrating that

Which the commission of thy years and art

Could to no issue of true honor bring.

Be not so long to speak. I long to die

If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents fate versus free will in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents fate versus free will in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents fate versus free will in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from the start of Act 4 Scene 3 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Juliet is preparing to take potion which will make it seem as if she is dead.

JULIET

Farewell.—God knows when we shall meet again.

I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins

That almost freezes up the heat of life.

I'll call them back again to comfort me.—

Nurse!—What should she do here?

My dismal scene I needs must act alone.

Come, vial. [¶]She takes out the vial. [¶]

What if this mixture do not work at all?

Shall I be married then tomorrow morning?

[¶]She takes out her knife

and puts it down beside her. [¶]

No, no, this shall forbid it. Lie thou there.

What if it be a poison which the Friar

Subtly hath ministered to have me dead,

Lest in this marriage he should be dishonored

Because he married me before to Romeo?

I fear it is. And yet methinks it should not,

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,

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,

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,

Lies fest'ring in his shroud;

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from the start of Act 4 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the Capulet household discover that Juliet is apparently dead.

LADY CAPULET

Accursed, unhappy, wretched, hateful day!
Most miserable hour that e'er time saw
In lasting labor of his pilgrimage!
But one, poor one, one poor and loving child,
But one thing to rejoice and solace in,
And cruel death hath caught it from my sight!

NURSE

O woe, O woeful, woeful, woeful day!
Most lamentable day, most woeful day
That ever, ever I did yet behold!
O day, O day, O day, O hateful day!
Never was seen so black a day as this!
O woeful day, O woeful day!

PARIS

Beguiled, divorcèd, wrongèd, spited, slain!
Most detestable death, by thee beguiled,
By cruel, cruel thee quite overthrown!
O love! O life! Not life, but love in death!

CAPULET

Despised, distressèd, hated, martyred, killed!
Uncomfortable time, why cam'st thou now
To murder, murder our solemnity?
O child! O child! My soul and not my child!
Dead art thou! Alack, my child is dead,
And with my child my joys are burièd.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents feelings of grief in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents feeling of grief in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents feelings of grief in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Romeo's servant arrives in Mantua with the mistaken news of Juliet's death.

ROMEO

News from Verona!—How now, Balthasar?
Dost thou not bring me letters from the Friar?
How doth my lady? Is my father well?
How doth my Juliet? That I ask again,
For nothing can be ill if she be well.

BALTHASAR

Then she is well and nothing can be ill.
Her body sleeps in Capels' monument,
And her immortal part with angels lives.
I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault
And presently took post to tell it you.
O, pardon me for bringing these ill news,
Since you did leave it for my office, sir.

ROMEO

Is it e'en so?—Then I deny you, stars!—
Thou knowest my lodging. Get me ink and paper,
And hire post-horses. I will hence tonight.

BALTHASAR

I do beseech you, sir, have patience.
Your looks are pale and wild and do import
Some misadventure.

ROMEO Tush, thou art deceived.

Leave me, and do the thing I bid thee do.
Hast thou no letters to me from the Friar?

BALTHASAR

No, my good lord.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents tragic catastrophe in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]