

GCSE (9–1)

Exemplar Candidate Work

ENGLISH LITERATURE

J352

For first teaching in 2015

Romeo and Juliet – Shakespeare

Version 1



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Extract-based questions

It is important when answering these questions to maintain a balance between the Assessment Objectives. These are:

AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts: maintain a critical style; develop an informed personal response; use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.

AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant terminology where appropriate.

AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

AOs 1 and 2 are dominant. This means that responses need to be well-argued and carefully supported in relation to the whole question. It is a good idea to divide time equally between the extract, which allows AO2 to be addressed through careful attention to language and dramatic structure, and elsewhere in the play, which allows candidates to construct a whole-text response based on reference and argument. It helps to have a particular scene or couple of scenes in mind for comparison/connection. AO3 will be implicit in the question, and may be addressed by exploring the differences between the expectations of Shakespeare's audience and the way modern-day directors and audiences might respond.

In the sample assessment materials published on the OCR website, the extract from Act 3 Scene 1 should offer plenty of opportunities for wider consideration of Mercutio's role in the play as it occurs just before the turning point from comedy to tragedy. Mercutio is determined to see Tybalt's words as provocation to violent action. Those who have seen Baz Luhrmann's 1996 film version are likely to read a homoerotic subtext into this exchange, which may have been possible even when the play was written, but it is more likely that the 'consortest' insult should be read as an insult related to servants. Minstrels wear 'livery' and make music not action, with 'fiddlesticks' not swords. Either way, Mercutio is determined to prove his manhood, even though Romeo, for reasons the audience is aware of but Mercutio and Tybalt are not, does not want to play this game.

The scene can be linked to other forms of gang warfare and aggressive masculinity. It certainly defines the move to tragedy and by Mercutio's dying words 'ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man'. Mercutio influences other events in the play, encouraging Romeo to attend the Capulet party and 'be rough with love' as well as bringing on Tybalt's death, Romeo's banishment and Capulet's desire to marry Juliet quickly to Paris in order to restore peace. The question asks about Mercutio's attitude: a good answer would point out that he is amusingly satirical about everyone, and his cynicism amuses audiences, but that this provokes the characters to extreme and often destructive action in order to try to prove themselves.

Discursive essay questions

This type of question gives candidates an opportunity to explore a key character, relationship or theme by exploring at least two moments in the play in detail. As the Assessments Objectives are the same as for the extract-based question, it is also important to explore contextual influences and to look closely at Shakespeare's language and dramatic techniques. Effective quotation is important to show knowledge and understanding.

The sample assessment question requires candidates to analyse changes in the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse, so at least two scenes could be examined from Juliet's initial appearance before her mother, with the Nurse doing most of the talking in 1.3 to the Nurse's role as go-between in 2.4 and 2.5, the Nurse's confusion of loyalties in 3.2 and what Juliet sees as a betrayal by a 'wicked fiend' in 3.5, after the Nurse has been intimidated by Capulet into supporting the marriage to Paris. Candidates can take different views about how well the Nurse has performed her quasi-maternal role for Juliet, and whether Juliet is unfair or just in dismissing her so harshly.



Script A

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24/05/2016

Romeo and Juliet – Mock Exam

- (A)
1. Mercutio's attitude towards Tybalt is a bit harsh. Mercutio doesn't like Tybalt because they are in different houses and from now both of the houses, Montague and Capulet, having a battle. Mercutio and Tybalt are arguing and Tybalt got really angry and killed Mercutio.

Tybalt came to talk to Romeo and Mercutio told him that he can't talk to Romeo. Tybalt tells Mercutio 'thou consortest with Romeo'. I think this suggests that Tybalt told Mercutio I want to talk to Romeo. Benvolio Mercutio tells Tybalt come we fight now. I know this because on the extract Mercutio tells Tybalt 'Here's my fiddlestick; here's that shall make you dance. Zounds, consort!' This suggest that Mercutio is trying to say that here's my knife and lets fight now. Benvolio comes in and tells Mercutio and Tybalt 'We talk here in public haunt of men; Either withdraw unto some private place, Or reason coldly of your grievances'. This suggest that Benvolio is trying to say in this moment

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Script A

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If to you want to fight then do it in some private place so you don't get arrested by the police. Then Mercutio tells Benvolio 'Men's eyes were made to look, and let them gaze; I will not budge for no man's pleasure, I.' I think Mercutio is trying to say let's fight now, we do not need to go to a private place, if he wants to fight now I'll give him a fight. Romeo enters and Tybalt tells Romeo 'Well, peace be with you, sir. Here comes my man.' This suggests that what Tybalt is trying to say is he is greeting Romeo and he tells Romeo come and sit down. Mercutio tells Tybalt 'But I'll be hang'd, sir, if he wear your livery.' I think he is trying to say that if Tybalt dies I will die. Tybalt gets angry and kills Mercutio. Mercutio is stabbed by Tybalt and Tybalt tells Romeo ~~you~~ 'Next day you're gonna find me as a grave man.' This suggests that what Mercutio is trying to say in his part to Romeo that next day you are not going find me because I am going to be in a grave. He a

...continued

Script A

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~~The~~ Mercutio dies and Romeo gets really angry and decides to kill Tybalt. After when he kills Tybalt he runs away because the police will be investigating.

Script A

Examiner commentary

This candidate immediately responds to Mercutio's aggression towards Tybalt and rightly sees him as provoking confrontation. There is understanding of the nature of the feud between the two houses, and of the consequences of Mercutio's challenge, although this is presented in a narrative rather than critical and analytical style. The candidate picks up that all Tybalt really wants from Mercutio is the whereabouts of Romeo, but that Mercutio's language turns this into a challenge. This is supported with quotations (AO1). There is also a little appreciation of Mercutio's metaphor 'shall make you dance' (AO2) but this is not explicitly analysed. Comments on Benvolio's intervention also shows some appreciation that any potential fight would be a breach of the peace, which shows knowledge of context (AO3) even if the reference to police is anachronistic and may betray the influence of the 1996 movie. More historically appropriate context would be helpful.

What follows is really supported narrative: a quotation is followed by an explanation, but those explanations begin to move beyond the literal meaning and explore the threat that lies behind them. More focus on the effect of words on the audience would have been useful here. The explanation of 'a grave man' is a good one, even if the quotation isn't accurate; it would have been better if the pun had been identified and linked to Mercutio's wish to be taken seriously. The consequences are at least partly understood, and it is clear that the candidate has enjoyed the drama of the confrontation. A stronger answer would have evaluated how it influences not only events in the play, but also the audience's emotions.

This response is not developed enough for Level 3, but goes beyond a basic response, despite elements of narrative. There is awareness of context and some understanding, given relevant support. Indeed most of the requirements for **Level 2** are met so the mark would be high within that band.



Script B

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Question 1 Simple exam question

Throughout the play Mercutio's attitude towards everyone is very satirical. He often makes fun of Romeo's ^{love} through sexual puns and other metaphors. He thinks of Romeo's love as something to make fun of and joke about. Romeo dislikes this as he says "You make fun of what you do not feel".

In the extract Mercutio starts off with a stubborn "by my heel I care not" after Benvolio informs him of Tybalt's arriving. From this comment we instantly know that Mercutio thinks low of Tybalt as he says "by my heel" which is a body part that is often close to the ground. He thinks Tybalt is someone to be scuffed across the air just like the heel of a foot.

When Tybalt enters he is not openly hostile. He even refers to the ~~Benvolio~~ ^{Benvolio} and Mercutio as "Gentlemen". This would cause Mercutio's attitude towards Tybalt to become even more sour as the comment "Gentlemen" just means that Tybalt wants something of them. There is also a element of sarcasm.

Mercutio already dislikes Tybalt by calling him a "prince of cats" earlier on in the play. This refers to Tybalt as being a prince of nothing. Mercutio is very annoyed with Tybalt and finally gives up with his smart replies. He tells Tybalt "What dost thou make us minders?" Mercutio is angry at Romeo for not acting like a man and taking on the duel so he feels like he needs

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Script B

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to step up as a man. This is due to what was expected of men during that time. Men were supposed to take up any challenge and were expected to learn to swordfight, so they could take these challenges. ~~There~~

Mercutio believes Tybalt is looking down on him so he has to take the challenge for his own dignity. Benvolio comes ~~inbetween~~ between them and urges

the foreshadowing words "we talk here in the public haunt of men; /

either withdraw into some private place / or reason coldly of your grievances; /

This comment ~~has~~ carries the imagery of coldness ('coldly') and death ('haunt of men'). The imagery gives a sense of something ~~bad~~ about to happen. It also foreshadows someone's death ~~back~~ by saying "reason coldly of your grievances" meaning if you don't withdraw to a private place some will end up being grievous for. Meaning someone will die. Mercutio is stubborn and says "men's eyes were made to look" and "I will not budge for no more pleasure".

Romeo enters the scene and Tybalt loses interest in Mercutio. This ~~causes~~ angers Mercutio even more as he has just declared that he will make Tybalt "dance" with his sword.

Throughout the scene Mercutio becomes increasingly frustrated at Tybalt. ~~Due~~ Due to Mercutio's frustration a fight breaks out and he ends up dead. This is a turning point in the play because this causes Romeo ~~to~~ to kill Tybalt and be banished. Also, without Mercutio Romeo would have never gone to the Capulets party to meet Juliet so he is a ~~key~~ ~~central~~ character in the play.

Script B

Examiner commentary

This response begins well by defining Mercutio's attitude as 'satirical'. This is apt use of subject terminology (AO2). Mercutio's punning language and hostile attitude to love are also referenced with a quotation which reminds us of Romeo's rebuke that he makes fun of what he cannot 'feel'. It would have been interesting to follow this up with more comment on what this suggests to the audience about Mercutio's character. Certainly wider understanding of the play is well-supported here (AO1).

Mercutio's stubbornness and insulting language are then analysed in some detail (AO2) and with individuality. This is contrasted with Tybalt's apparently courteous address. Cross-reference to Mercutio's unprovoked dislike of Tybalt is supported by quotation and analysis (AO1). The idea that 'Mercutio is angry at Romeo for not acting like a man' is important here, as it is a contextual point (AO3) although this might have been linked more explicitly to the language of the extract. The notion that men needed to step up to challenges is well-developed, as is the idea that Mercutio feels his dignity affronted by Tybalt.

The comment on Benvolio's language shows the ability to shape an analytical response. The idea that Benvolio's imagery foreshadows death comes from taking individual words – 'coldly' and 'haunt' out of context. Close verbal analysis is arguably more successful when the language is meant to be ambiguous, which is the defining nature of Mercutio's language: but not of the less verbally sensitive characters around him.

There is good understanding of the drama of entrances and exits which has a powerful effect on the staging of this scene. It is appreciated that once Romeo enters, Tybalt has no interest in Mercutio, and that this provokes Mercutio's anger. It is a pity that the candidate runs out of time to develop the final points, which point out that this is a turning point in the play (AO1), and not the only time that Mercutio's attitude crucially influences events. The consequences play out for the remainder of the drama.

This answer meets most of the requirements of **Level 4**. There is 'some critical style' from the outset and relevant textual references are embedded (AO1). Clear understanding of context is demonstrated in the comments on aggressive and confrontational masculinity (AO3). There is analytical comment (AO2) but this needs development and better focus for Level 5. The response would be at the top of Level 4.



Script C

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(C)

Section B: Romeo and Juliet (Sample Paper)

Explore how Mercutio's attitude towards Tybalt, and others, influences events in the play. Refer to this extract from Act 3, scene 1 and elsewhere in the play. [40]

In this extract we see how Mercutio's lively and passionate nature towards other characters not only results in his and Tybalt's deaths but changes the course of Romeo's love too. In this extract we see Mercutio's witty, provocative attitude towards Tybalt, which influences the fight. We see this attitude through Mercutio's use of word play. Mercutio's witty language angers Tybalt and this is seen when Tybalt says 'thou consortest with Romeo' meaning, you are on the side of Romeo. However, Mercutio uses wordplay to say 'consort! What dost thou make us minstrels?' meaning t. This lively attitude towards Tybalt, who wishes to have a serious fight with Romeo, increases the tension as we see his anger rising. Mercutio's keen desire to uphold Montague honour in the streets of Verona is shown through his provocative attitude towards Tybalt. Mercutio is the first to mention violence by saying 'make it a word and a blow.' This consequently results in the fight breaking out and leads to his and Tybalt's deaths. We do not only see Mercutio's witty and provocative attitude to Tybalt in this extract but also later in the scene when he gives Tybalt nicknames such as 'rat catcher' and 'king of the cats' in order to enrage him into battle. Also in this scene we see how Mercutio becomes angered by Romeo's apparent cowardice and how this influences the fight. Mercutio, despite not being a Montague, is desperate to uphold Montague honour and consequently is enraged when Romeo declines to duel with Tybalt. Mercutio describes Romeo's actions as 'vile submission and the word 'submission' has connotations of weakness and surrender which are things Mercutio is desperate to prevent. Mercutio's attitude to Romeo when he tries to stop the fight shows his hot-headed nature and here Shakespeare uses dramatic irony as the audience know why Romeo cannot fight Tybalt but

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Script C

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Mercutio is unaware. Also Mercutio's dismissive attitude to Benvolio, who attempts to keep the peace, influence the events in the play, as if Mercutio had listened to Benvolio's warnings the action would have stopped not only his own and Tybalt's deaths but possibly those of Romeo and Juliet too.

Benvolio says 'either withdraw unto some private place... or else depart' but Mercutio replies, 'I will not budge for no man's pleasure' showing how his stubborn and angry attitude to Benvolio's attempts to maintain peace influences the events in the play.

In this extract and in the play as a whole, we see Mercutio's changeable attitude which influences events. Mercutio's name is an anronym for 'mercury'. The god Mercury was known for his swift flights between this world and the underworld, portraying Mercutio's unstable nature. We see this as Mercutio's mood changes from lively and witty, when he provokes Tybalt, which leads to the fight, to serious and angered, when Romeo declines the battle. These two sides to his personality are shown in this scene, expressing the unstable nature of his character. The two side to his nature are also shown later in the scene, just before he dies, when he says 'ask for me tomorrow and you will find me a grave man.' Mercutio makes a joke here, using the double-meaning of the word 'grave' but these words have a very serious meaning as the feud is effecting even those who aren't Montague or Capulet. In this scene Mercutio's attitude changes to anger when he tells Romeo 'I was hurt under your arm' consequently causing Romeo to murder Tybalt in revenge and, subsequently, Romeo's banishment.

Overall we see how Mercutio's lively, witty, hot-headed and provocative attitude towards Tybalt and other character acts as a catalyst for the tragic events that follow this extract.



Script C

Examiner commentary

This response begins where Script B ends: there is an overview of the consequences of Mercutio's 'lively and passionate nature' throughout the play (AO1). He is rightly seen as both witty and provocative. The focus on 'word play' is a good one and the selection of the response to the word 'consortest' is spot on, but comment is underdeveloped (AO2). The tonal clash between Tybalt's seriousness and Mercutio's banter is also understood. The reference to 'Montague honour' could have been better developed to address AO3. Mercutio's 'make it a word and a blow' is correctly analysed as provocation to violence (AO2).

The response is quickly extended to other examples of Mercutio's insulting language towards Tybalt and textual reference is neatly interwoven into analysis of Mercutio's disgust at Romeo's refusal to fight (AO1). Impressive comment follows that shows appreciation of both Mercutio's 'hot-headed nature' and Shakespeare's 'dramatic irony', using subject terminology effectively (AO2). This might have led to more developed comment on how Mercutio's death changes the atmosphere of the play. Instead the essay returns to Benvolio's intervention and Mercutio's 'stubborn and angry attitude'. These are good observations, but a better-planned and more organised response would have begun with sustained close analysis of the extract and then moved on to wider issues.

Mercutio's changeable attitude is pinpointed, although it might be more accurate to say that he is witty and provocative at the same time. The idea that he is a 'catalyst for tragic events' is highly perceptive and would have made a good starting point for broader analysis of how Mercutio's attitude influences events in the play. He is treated as a comic character by others, but is desperate to be taken seriously and prove his masculinity. He is insulted by the suggestion that he is a 'minstrel' because he wants to be a man of action. The link to Mercury and a mercurial nature is a contextual point (AO3) and would have been even better if connected to Elizabethan notions of astrology and fate ('star-crossed lovers') and the pun on 'grave man' is skilfully analysed (AO2) but could have led to comment on Mercutio's subsequent curse 'A plague a both your houses'. The supernatural influence Mercutio cites is 'Queen Mab' and like her, he is mischievous and ultimately destructive, and this could have been linked more directly to the earlier occasion when he changed 'the course of Romeo's love' to underline the idea that he is a 'catalyst' for tragedy.

There are very good ideas in this response, which need a little more organisation, and more explicit targeting of Assessment Objectives in order to be sustained, consistently perceptive and evaluative as well as analytical. Consequently a mark would be awarded at the top of **Level 5**, but there is Level 6 potential here.



Script D

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①

Romeo and Juliet assessment

Juliet's relationship with the Nurse varies throughout the whole play. The Nurse is shown to be helping Romeo and Juliet get together but has some sort of disagreement with them.

In the beginning of the play the relationship between the ~~two~~ ^{two} is really strong and the Nurse knows her too well. The Nurse says "Faith, I can tell her age unto a hour". This implies how much the Nurse knows about her. Seeing as the Nurse raised Juliet it is shown that ~~the~~ Nurse is more of a Motherly figure towards Juliet rather than Lady Capulet. The phrase "I can tell her age" suggests how she would know her age as the Nurse was the one to raise Juliet. Juliet never had such a strong relationship with her mother because ^{during that time period} ~~in those days~~ rich people wouldn't raise their own children, so ~~the~~ ^{Juliet} ~~feelings~~ would think of the Nurse as a mother rather than a Nurse.

Another scene as to where the relationship changes is when Juliet is waiting for the news ~~of~~ ^{about} from Romeo about the marriage. Here the Nurse delays telling Juliet about Romeo as a joke. The Nurse ~~also~~ kept on repeating ~~the~~ the problem she has with her back and then asks "where is your mother." The relationship here ~~shows~~ ^{is} ~~to~~ the audience ~~a~~ visualise a soft and friendly relationship between them as the Nurse is joking about. The ~~phrase~~ ^{the Nurse} part where ~~she~~ asks about Juliet's mother has two meanings. The first is that she may be delaying it again to annoy Juliet or that what she's about to tell Juliet, ^{Lady} ~~the~~ Capulet ~~may~~ cannot be around to hear.

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Script D

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In this part the ~~same~~ lines are short and quick ^{because} ~~as~~ there is a lot of tension as the audience and Juliet don't know what the Nurse will tell Juliet.

Thirdly another part in their relationship is how much the Nurse cares for Juliet. The Nurse goes out to see Romeo and bumps into Mercutio. Mercutio says "A old have hoar" which suggest that he is mimicking and trying to insult the Nurse. This shows the love ~~&~~ the Nurse has for Juliet because ~~she~~ the Nurse ~~goes~~ suffers a lot of insults from Mercutio and also Lord Capulet. When he says "peace be with you" and talks about the Nurse being a gossip. This all implies what the Nurse goes through just so that Juliet could be happy which also indicates what a mother does for her child.

Finally Juliet's Relationship later turns out to be a bit worse with the Nurse when ~~the~~ Nurse goes against Romeo and advises Juliet to marry ~~a~~ Paris. The Nurse says "Romeo's a dishclout to him" ~~and~~ which implies that the Nurse is trying to say that Paris is a better match for her and the Romeo cannot be compared to him. Juliet then says "O, Ancient daemon" which suggests how shocked Juliet is due to the ~~dis loyalty~~ ^{the} ~~disloyalty~~ ^{Romeo and Juliet.} that the Nurse has towards ~~her~~ and that she is advising her to do something which goes against her love. This scene shows the small argument they have and the disagreement they have with each other.

...continued

Script D

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~~Finally the scene where Juliet is~~
Finally the scene where Juliet ~~is~~ is
about to ~~execute~~ execute the plan and the
trust between her and the Nurse disappears.
The Friar says "Let not the Nurse lie with thee." This
indicates that Juliet cannot trust anyone anymore
even the Nurse as the Nurse is against Romeo
now and would ~~to~~ stop Juliet from taking the
potion. The theme of trust ~~is~~ is not
here between the Nurse and Juliet at this moment
because Juliet is obsessed with Romeo and would
do anything to be with him. However there is still
that love between them both because once the Nurse
finds out ~~about~~ that she 'died' ~~she~~ the Nurse is
in a state of shock and cannot control her feelings.
She shows more sympathy towards Juliet than Lady Capulet.

Script D

Examiner commentary

The candidate begins with an overview noting the Nurse's go-between role and her later dismissal from Juliet's confidence, so the question is directly addressed and there is understanding of the way the drama develops. There is implicit understanding of context in the appreciation that it is the Nurse who raises Juliet, and that she is a more genuine mother figure for her than Lady Capulet (AO1) and supported appreciation that she 'knows her too well' (AO1). AO2 might have been addressed by looking more closely at why Juliet would find the Nurse's garrulity excruciatingly embarrassing in the dramatic context of 1.3.

There is more analysis of language and dramatic structure in the comments on 2.5 which follow, which pick up the way the Nurse is 'joking about' by delaying her message from Romeo. Quotation would have really helped here, and does appear to effect in response to 2.4, which is mentioned next. It is explained that Nurse is a butt for Mercutio's jokes and Capulet's bullying, but this needs more development. Well-chosen quotation then supports explanation of the Nurse's betrayal and Juliet's description of her as 'ancient damnation'. More analysis and contextualisation here could have explained that Juliet now sees her as a vice, rather than a confidential adviser.

The last point is very well made: in the last two acts of the play, the Nurse becomes simply a bystander and is no longer trusted. She still shows love for Juliet, but is dramatically unaware that the 'suicide' is a fake, and so Juliet is now dependent solely on the Friar for help.

AO1 is securely at Level 3: there is a reasonably developed personal response showing understanding and supported by relevant reference. There are some relevant comments about context (AO3). However, AO2 is at a lower level. There needs to be more effective explanation of how Shakespeare creates effects for the audience, and the quality of analysis and the way this is used to drive argument will be the key to raising this candidate's overall performance from **Level 3** to the next level.



Script E

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How and why do you think Juliet's relationship changes? Explore at least two moments from the play to support your idea. (40)

The relationship between Juliet and the Nurse is extremely strong and this is shown all through the play "Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour" the word 'hour' shows how well the nurse knows Juliet and how long they have been together, in those times Verona was a patriarchal society so they often got a nurse in to look after their child whilst the man was out working. They have been close ever since Juliet was born as the Nurse has almost taken over Lady Capulet's job as a mother, sees Juliet as that of her own as her child died years before lighting the fire in their relationship.

We know their relationship was strong because the nurse is the only person that Juliet told about Romeo. Juliet is comfortable with and at ease speaking to the Nurse, this means if Juliet was to have any queries she would always go to the nurse for advice and help. And the nurse's advice is what influenced Juliet to marry Romeo in the first place "A man, young lady! Lady, such a man as all the world—why, he's a man of wax" the nurse saying that Romeo is a good person and handsome, a good match for Juliet reassuring her when there were doubts in the relationship because they are from different families.

So after many years together they grew even closer and had complete trust and faith in each other, until act 3 scene 5. This scene is what changed their relationship for the worst, Lord Capulet ordered Juliet to marry Paris. Juliet refused to marry and when she asked the nurse for help, the nurse just simply told her to marry Paris saying to him "Here, sir, a ring she bid me give you, sir". This is not what Juliet wanted to hear, from then on in the play Juliet and the Nurse's once strong bond was gone. Juliet lost all belief, respect and trust in the nurse. Juliet had to find someone else to rely on and this person ended up being Friar Lawrence.

When Juliet goes to friar Lawrence, Juliet makes sure the nurse has no idea about the plan this is shown by the reaction to Juliet's supposed death as she says "oh lamentable day"; this shows how much she loved Juliet and how much they meant to each other. And after her death, this reaction shows the loss she has felt and how damaging this is to her and the rest of the Capulet's family. That moment shows the peak of the changes in relationship that now she is gone, like the nurse's own child, the nurse feels she has nothing to do anymore, no-one to look after – she would have to move away from this family forever this shows how powerful the relationship was between the two and how she feels now she felt when she thought she would never see her again.



Script E

Examiner commentary

This response begins with a clear explanation of the Nurse's role, supported by textual reference (AO1). Clarity is also the hallmark of the comment on language. It is explained how the Nurse's unambiguous language of praise is a key element in Juliet's love for Romeo, in spite of the dangerous context.

Act 3 scene 5 is rightly seen as a turning point, with a supporting quotation which gives the example of the Nurse passing on Paris's ring. There is a good explanation of why the relationship changes.

The closing remarks also show understanding of the Nurse's exclusion from the events of the last two acts, with comments that show sensitive appreciation that her love of Juliet appear to be genuine, and that she is now without a role, and probably without a job, and she feels the loss to herself as well as the whole Capulet family.

This response provides reasonable explanation of the writer's use of language, form and structure to create meanings and effects. Context is clearly understood (AO3) and relevant textual references are selected to support clear understanding (AO1). Thus, although AO2 is at a lower level, a mark at the low end of **Level 4** would be appropriate.



Script F

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①

②

Romeo and Juliet Assessment

Juliet's relationship with the Nurse changes because Shakespeare uses the comical characters of the Nurse and Mercutio to emphasise Romeo's and Juliet's romantic love. He does this by juxtaposing throughout the play Romeo's and Juliet's passionate love with the more physical pursuit love that the Nurse and Mercutio show. For example this is seen when Romeo is on his way to the Capulets party and he is still depressed by Rosaline's rejection; Mercutio juxtaposes his melancholic feelings by telling him "If love be rough with you, be rough with love". The word rough has connotations of violent ~~rough~~ and harsh, this shows Mercutio's more sexual attitude to love, and this attitude emphasises more Romeo's loving character throughout the play. The Nurse is used by Shakespeare to achieve this same effect. Therefore as Juliet becomes more mature ~~to~~ and emotional towards love, the Nurse ~~becomes~~ ~~the~~ contradicts her feelings, to the point that she even suggests ~~to~~ to Juliet to leave Romeo and ~~marry~~ ~~Juliet~~ Paris.

At the beginning of the play, the Nurse is a very close person to Juliet, their relationship is so strong that the Nurse says to Juliet ~~the~~ ~~your~~ when she asks for who's calling her "It's your mother" ~~there's~~. Juliet shows his trust towards the Nurse as she tells her about her marriage. However the relationship changes as ~~the~~ the Nurse betrays Juliet by agreeing with ~~her~~ father's decision of marrying Paris. This happens because the Nurse is a much older person ~~that~~ than

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Script F

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②

Juliet. Throughout the play, we see how Shakespeare juxtaposes young with old to show their different views and attitudes towards love. For example when Friar Lawrence tells Romeo that "Young men's love lies not in their hearts, but in their eyes". Also the Nurse is a middle class worker and ~~at time~~ we know that in Verona at that time, people like the Nurse weren't important in families. Therefore the Nurse's working class status and age makes her forget about her feelings towards Juliet and makes her agree with other character's decisions as Lord Capulet.

~~Juliet~~ ~~changes from a young childish teenager~~
~~from~~

The change of Juliet's relationship with the Nurse helps ~~to~~ to increase the impact ~~on~~ of the audience of Juliet's transition from a young childish teenager to a tragic heroine. This happens because we see how the Nurse takes care of Juliet all the time and helps her to get married with Romeo, which shows the childish ~~man~~ Juliet, but because the Nurse betrays Juliet she doesn't trust the Nurse anymore and she becomes brave enough to take decisions by herself and act alone as it is shown when she's about to drink the poison and says "My dismal scene, I needs must act alone". This quote shows that she's developed to a more mature woman who's decided to be a tragic heroine. The verb 'must' shows her developed decision taking and the ~~verb~~ adjective 'alone' emphasises how she doesn't fear anymore to be by herself and doing things by her own. Therefore the change of the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse is needed to

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Script F

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③

impact the audience with Juliet's development

*The use of the word eyes shows how the Friar believes that young men's love is more about physical attraction



Script F

Examiner commentary

This candidate begins confidently with an explanation of the relationship of the comic characters to the romantic loves, showing good use of subject terminology. This is developed further by explaining that different ideas of love are juxtaposed through the characters' different attitudes and language. The suggestion that it is Juliet's more mature perception of love which leads her to contradict the Nurse is perceptive and thoughtful.

The closeness of Juliet and the Nurse is demonstrated by an observation which proves Juliet's distance from her mother. However, she is seen as siding with the older rather than the younger people in the play in an explanation of the turning point, when the Nurse's support for Paris changes her relationship with Juliet. These points show awareness of dramatic structure as well as character development (AO2). The Nurse's marginal social status is also considered (AO3).

It is especially good to see awareness of the dramatic impact of the Nurse's change of loyalties on the audience. This is supported by a critical understanding of the way Juliet has transformed into a tragic heroine. Part of her tragedy is that she now needs to act alone, and the analysis of the language of her soliloquy brings out the modal verb 'must' which emphasises the role of fate.

This response shows a convincing critical style and is well-developed. It is a secure **Level 5** response. For Level 6, it would need more detailed and sensitive analysis of the Nurse's language (AO2) and to address quotations with more comment on their dramatic effectiveness. Understanding of context needs to drive perceptive evaluation of the text (AO3).





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