

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Prince Escalus is deciding how to punish Romeo for killing Tybalt.

	LADY CAPULET
	He is a kinsman to the Montague; Affection makes him false; he speaks not true: Some twenty of them fought in this black strife, And all those twenty could but kill one life.
5	I beg for justice, which thou, prince, must give; Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.
	PRINCE
	Romeo slew him, he slew Mercutio; Who now the price of his dear blood doth owe?
	MONTAGUE
10	Not Romeo, prince, he was Mercutio's friend; His fault concludes but what the law should end, The life of Tybalt.
	PRINCE
	And for that offence Immediately we do exile him hence: I have an interest in your hate's proceeding, My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a-bleeding;
15	But I'll amerce you with so strong a fine That you shall all repent the loss of mine: I will be deaf to pleading and excuses; Nor tears nor prayers shall purchase our abuses:
20	Therefore use none: let Romeo hence in haste, Else, when he's found, that hour is his last. Bear hence this body and attend our will: Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.

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0 2

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the nature of justice.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents nature of justice in the extract.
- how Shakespeare presents nature of the justice in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question