

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play the Nurse has just informed Juliet that Romeo has been banished for killing Tybalt.

	JULIET
	O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face! Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave? Beautiful tyrant! fiend angelical!
5	Dove-feather'd raven! wolvish-ravening lamb! Despised substance of divinest show! Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st, A damned saint, an honourable villain!
10	O nature, what hadst thou to do in hell, When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend In moral paradise of such sweet flesh? Was ever book containing such vile matter So fairly bound? O that deceit should dwell In such a gorgeous palace!
15	Nurse There's no trust, No faith, no honesty in men; all perjured, All forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers. Ah, where's my man? give me some aqua vitae: These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me old.
20	Shame come to Romeo! JULIET Blister'd be thy tongue For such a wish! he was not born to shame: Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit; For 'tis a throne where honour may be crown'd
25	Sole monarch of the universal earth. O, what a beast was I to chide at him! Nurse Will you speak well of him that kill'd your cousin?
30	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?

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Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the relationship between love and loyalty.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents love and loyalty in the extract.
- how Shakespeare presents love and loyalty in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►