

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play the Romeo has been exiled to Mantua.

5	<p>ROMEO If I may trust the flattering truth of sleep, My dreams presage some joyful news at hand: My bosom's lord sits lightly in his throne; And all this day an unaccustom'd spirit Lifts me above the ground with cheerful thoughts. I dreamt my lady came and found me dead-- Strange dream, that gives a dead man leave to think!--</p>
10	<p>And breathed such life with kisses in my lips, That I revived, and was an emperor. Ah me! how sweet is love itself possess'd, When but love's shadows are so rich in joy! Enter BALTHASAR, booted News from Verona!--How now, Balthasar! Dost thou not bring me letters from the friar? How doth my lady? Is my father well? How fares my Juliet? that I ask again; For nothing can be ill, if she be well.</p>
15	<p>BALTHASAR Then she is well, and nothing can be ill: Her body sleeps in Capel's 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.</p>
20	<p>ROMEO Is it even so? then I defy you, stars! Thou know'st my lodging: get me ink and paper, And hire post-horses; I will hence to-night.</p>
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Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents fate as untrustworthy.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
 AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►