

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play the Romeo is looking upon Juliet, who he thinks is dead.

| | |
|----|--|
| | Romeo |
| | Ah, dear Juliet, |
| | Why art thou yet so fair? shall I believe |
| | That unsubstantial death is amorous, |
| 5 | And that the lean abhorred monster keeps |
| | Thee here in dark to be his paramour? |
| | For fear of that, I still will stay with thee; |
| | And never from this palace of dim night |
| | Depart again: here, here will I remain |
| 10 | With worms that are thy chamber-maids; O, here |
| | Will I set up my everlasting rest, |
| | And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars |
| | From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, look your last! |
| | Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you |
| | The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss |
| 15 | A dateless bargain to engrossing death! |
| | Come, bitter conduct, come, unsavoury guide! |
| | Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on |
| | The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark! |
| | Here's to my love! |
| 20 | <i>Drinks</i> |
| | O true apothecary! |
| | Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die. |
| | <i>Dies</i> |

0 2

Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Romeo as a romantic individual.

Write about:

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question