

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

How to use these practice tests

This book contains seven GCSE English Literature exam-style practice tests for *Romeo and Juliet*. All the York Notes tests have been modelled on the ones that you will sit in your AQA GCSE 9–1 English Literature exam.

There are lots of ways these tests can support your study and revision for your AQA English Literature exam on *Romeo and Juliet*. There is no 'right' way – choose the one (or ones) that suits your learning style best.

You could use the book:

1 Alongside the York Notes Study Guide for *Romeo and Juliet*

Do you have the York Notes Study Guide for *Romeo and Juliet*?

These tests will allow you to try out all the skills and techniques outlined in the Study Guide. So you could:

- choose a question from this book
- read the sections of the Study Guide relevant to the question, i.e. Plot and Action; Characters; Themes, Contexts and Setting; Structure, Form and Language
- use the Progress Booster exam section of the Study Guide to remind yourself of key exam techniques
- complete the question.

2 As a stand-alone revision programme

Do you know the text inside out and have you already mastered the skills needed for your exam?

If so, you can keep your skills fresh by answering one or two questions from this book each day or week in the lead-up to the exam. You could make a revision diary and allocate particular questions to particular times.

3 As a form of mock exam

Would you like to test yourself under exam conditions?

You could put aside part of a day to work on a practice test in a quiet room. Set a stopwatch so that you can experience what it will be like in your real exam. If some of your friends have copies of this book then several of you could all do this together and discuss your answers afterwards.

Or, you could try working through Part Two of this book slowly, question by question, over a number of days as part of your revision, and save the further questions in Part Three to use as a mock test nearer the exam.

How to use the answer sections

This book contains a mixture of annotated sample answers and short (indicative content) answers that will help you to:

- identify the difference between Mid, Good and Very High Level work
- understand how the Assessment Objectives are applied
- grade your own answers by comparing them with the samples provided.

The answers can also give you additional ideas for your responses and help you to aim high.

QUESTION 1, MID LEVEL ANSWER

ADP Well-chosen quotation

ADP Useful reference to elsewhere in the play, which could be supported with a quotation

ADP Some focus on how Shakespeare constructs Benvolio as a character

ADP Relevant reference to context

ADP Clear focus on the question but phrasing could be more sophisticated

MID LEVEL

Comment:
This response shows a clear understanding of Benvolio's main character traits and the answer is supported with relevant examples from the text. There is a focus on the question throughout the answer although the repeated use of the words 'good intentions' and 'shows that' could have been avoided. The candidate makes reference to the effects of language and there are some basic contextual comments. Links are made between the passage and the whole text.

For a Good Level:

- Aim to vary the vocabulary used.
- Comment on form and structure as well as language.
- Make more specific references to subject terminology.
- Zoom in on words within your chosen quotations.

Points for improvement are given to show the difference between Mid, Good and Very High Level work.

Sample answers show the key points and ideas you could have included, with examiner-style annotations linked to the Assessment Objectives.

Each annotated sample is awarded a level with an examiner-style comment.

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Annotated sample answers

Now, read the three sample answers that follow and, based on what you have read, try to allocate a level to your own work. Which of the three responses is your answer closest to? Don't be discouraged if your work doesn't seem as strong as some of the responses here – the point is to use these samples to learn about what is needed and then put it into practice in your own work. On the other hand, you may have mentioned relevant ideas or points that don't appear in these responses; if this is the case, give yourself a pat on the back – it shows you are considering lots of good ideas.

Sample answer A

AO1 Clear focus on question

Benvolio is presented as a character with good intentions because he is a caring friend to Romeo and because he always wants to stop people from fighting. In this extract, he is trying to cheer up Romeo, who is feeling sad about Rosaline, so Benvolio tries to persuade Romeo to go to the Capulet party to meet other girls.

The main thing that shows Benvolio's good intentions here is when he is telling Romeo to compare Rosaline to other girls. Benvolio says, 'Compare herself with some that I shall show'. This shows that Benvolio wants Romeo to meet a new woman to admire, to stop him worrying about Rosaline. I think this shows that Benvolio has good intentions because he is being caring, which reminds us of earlier in the play when he helped Romeo's parents to find out why their son was feeling sad.

Also in this extract, Benvolio tells Romeo that Rosaline will seem like a 'crow' compared to a new woman who will be like a 'swan'. He means that Rosaline may not be as pretty as some of the other girls at the party. This bird image works well because a swan is more attractive than a crow. When Benvolio tells Romeo this, he wants his friend to forget Rosaline as he knows she is upsetting him. This image shows the audience that Benvolio is clever enough to choose the right words to persuade Romeo to agree with his plan.

*Benvolio carries on trying to help even when Romeo doesn't want to change his mind. This shows that Benvolio won't give up on his friend. He argues against Romeo to make his points stronger. This is shown in *Tut, you saw her fair, none else being by*. Here, Benvolio is saying that Romeo only thinks Rosaline is best because he hasn't ever considered any others. In Shakespeare's time men would go to feasts like this to meet new women, so Benvolio's plan could work. In the end he does persuade Romeo to go to the feast which shows that Romeo respects him.*

AO1 This quotation could be more fluently embedded

AO2 Explains effect but the analogy could be further developed

AO1 Wording is becoming a bit repetitive now

AO4 The candidate has forgotten to use quotation marks

AO1 Links point to the wider text

AO2 Understands effect on audience

AO3 Relevant reference to context

Earlier in this play, Benvolio is also portrayed as a man with good intentions when he tries to stop other characters from fighting. In the first street fight of the play, he tells the men who are fighting 'Put up your swords.' This helps the audience to see Benvolio as a peacemaker. In this scene, Shakespeare makes him seem very different to the servants and Tybalt who seem to enjoy fighting. This also shows that he has good intentions.

Benvolio is shown as a peacemaker again when he tries to stop Mercutio from fighting with Tybalt later in the play. He warns Mercutio that it is very hot outside and that if the Capulets arrive there will be trouble. The hot weather means people lose their tempers quickly and Benvolio wants to get his friend away from there. But Benvolio doesn't manage to stop this fight and Mercutio dies even though Benvolio had the good intention to save him.

In this extract, the audience can see that Benvolio is trying to help a friend. Eventually, Romeo does go to the ball where he meets Juliet and falls in love, just like Benvolio said he would. Also in other parts of the play Benvolio tries to stop people fighting which is another thing that shows him to be a man with good intentions.

AO1 Well-chosen quotation

AO1 Useful reference to elsewhere in the play, which could be supported with a quotation

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PART THREE: FURTHER YORK NOTES PRACTICE TESTS WITH SHORT ANSWERS

Here are three further questions on the text in a similar style to the ones you might face in your exam. Taking into account what you have learnt from the mark schemes on pages 7–8, and the sample responses to the other questions, use Questions 5 to 7 as you wish. You may choose to:

- plan ideas
- write opening paragraphs or part answers
- write full answers at your own speed
- write full answers to a set time limit.

Once you have finished, you can check to see if you have covered some of the key points suggested in the Answers section, and make a judgement about what level you have achieved.



Question 5

Read the following extract from *Romeo and Juliet* (Act III Scene 5) and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the Nurse is trying to persuade Juliet to marry Paris even though she knows that Juliet is already married to Romeo.

NURSE

I think it best you married with the County.

O, he's a lovely gentleman!

Romeo's a dishclout to him. An eagle, madam,
Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye

- 5 As Paris hath. Beshrew my very heart,
I think you are as happy in this second match,
For it excels your first; or if it did not,
Your first is dead – or 'twere as good he were
As living here and you no use of him.

JULIET

- 10 Speakest thou from thy heart?

NURSE

And from my soul too. Else beshrew them both.

JULIET

Amen!

NURSE

What?

JULIET

Well, thou hast comforted me marvellous much.

- 15 Go in; and tell my lady I am gone,
Having displeased my father, to Laurence' cell,
To make confession and to be absolved.

NURSE:

Marry, I will; and this is wisely done. *[Exit Nurse]*

JULIET:

Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend!

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]