Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from the Prologue of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the Chorus is introducing both families.

> Two households, both alike in dignity
> (In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),
> From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
> Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
> From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
> A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
> Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
> Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
> The fearful passage of their death-marked love
> And the continuance of their parents' rage,
> Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
> Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
> The which, if you with patient ears attend,
> What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the inevitability of fate in Romeo and Juliet .

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents the significance of fate in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents the significance of fate in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]