Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Capulet discusses Juliet's marriage with Paris.

CAPULET
Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender
Of my child's love. I think she will⌜be⌝ ruled
In all respects by me. Nay, more, I doubt it not.—
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed.
Acquaint her here of my son Paris' love,
And bid her—mark you me?—on Wednesday
next—
But soft, what day is this?
PARIS Monday, my lord.
CAPULET
Monday, ha ha! Well, Wednesday is too soon.
O' Thursday let it be.—O' Thursday, tell her,
She shall be married to this noble earl.—
Will you be ready? Do you like this haste?
⌜We'll⌝ keep no great ado: a friend or two.
For hark you, Tybalt being slain so late,
It may be thought we held him carelessly,
Being our kinsman, if we revel much.
Therefore we'll have some half a dozen friends,
And there an end. But what say you to Thursday?
PARIS
My lord, I would that Thursday were tomorrow.
CAPULET
Well, get you gone. O' Thursday be it, then.
⌜To Lady Capulet.⌝ Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed.
Prepare her, wife, against this wedding day.—
Farewell, my lord.—Light to my chamber, ho!—
Afore me, it is so very late that we
May call it early by and by.—Good night.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage Romeo and Juliet.

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage in this extract.
• how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]