Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Romeo has arrived at the Capulet vault and is preparing to poison himself.

ROMEO
Give me that mattock and the wrenching iron.
Hold, take this letter. Early in the morning
See thou deliver it to my lord and father.
Give me the light. Upon thy life I charge thee,
Whate'er thou hearest or seest, stand all aloof
And do not interrupt me in my course.
Why I descend into this bed of death
Is partly to behold my lady's face,
But chiefly to take thence from her dead finger
A precious ring, a ring that I must use
In dear employment. Therefore hence, begone.
But, if thou, jealous, dost return to pry
In what I farther shall intend to do,
By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint
And strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs.
The time and my intents are savage-wild,
More fierce and more inexorable far
Than empty tigers or the roaring sea.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the tragedy of love in Romeo and Juliet.

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]