Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Capulet is discussing the proposed marriage of Juliet and Paris.

CAPULET
And too soon marred are those so early made.
Earth hath swallowed all my hopes but she;
She's the hopeful lady of my earth.
But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart;
My will to her consent is but a part.
And, she agreed, within her scope of choice
Lies my consent and fair according voice.
This night I hold an old accustomed feast,
Whereto I have invited many a guest
Such as I love; and you among the store,
One more, most welcome, makes my number more.
At my poor house look to behold this night
Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light.
Such comfort as do lusty young men feel
When well-appareled April on the heel
Of limping winter treads, even such delight

Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents attitudes towards marriage.

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]