Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from the start of Act 2 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the Nurse returns to tell Juliet the arrangements about her secret marriage to Romeo.

NURSE
Lord, how my head aches! What a head have I!
It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.
My back o' t' other side! Ah, my back, my back!
Beshrew your heart for sending me about
To catch my death with jaunting up and down.
JULIET
I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well.
Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse, tell me, what says my love?
NURSE Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a courteous, and a kind, and a handsome, and, I warrant, a virtuous—Where is your mother?
JULIET
Where is my mother? Why, she is within.
Where should she be? How oddly thou repliest:
"Your love says, like an honest gentleman,
Where is your mother?"
NURSE O God's lady dear,
Are you so hot? Marry, come up, I trow.
Is this the poultice for my aching bones?
Henceforward do your messages yourself.

Starting with this extract, explain how Shakespeare presents comedy in Romeo and Juliet.

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]