Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from the start of Act 4 Scene 1 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Juliet pleads with Friar Lawrence to help her fake her own death.

JULIET
Tell me not, friar, that thou hearest of this,
Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it.
If in thy wisdom thou canst give no help,
Do thou but call my resolution wise,
And with this knife I'll help it presently.
⌜She shows him her knife.⌝
God joined my heart and Romeo's, thou our hands;
And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo's sealed,
Shall be the label to another deed,
Or my true heart with treacherous revolt
Turn to another, this shall slay them both.
Therefore out of thy long-experienced time
Give me some present counsel, or, behold,
'Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife
Shall play the umpire, arbitrating that
Which the commission of thy years and art
Could to no issue of true honor bring.
Be not so long to speak. I long to die
If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents fate versus free will in Romeo and Juliet.

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents fate versus free will in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents fate versus free will in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]