Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play the Romeo declares his love to Juliet.

Romeo
But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?
It is the East, and Juliet is the sun.
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief
That thou, her maid, art far more fair than she.
Be not her maid since she is envious.
Her vestal livery is but sick and green,
And none but fools do wear it. Cast it off.
It is my lady. O, it is my love!
O, that she knew she were!
She speaks, yet she says nothing. What of that?
Her eye discourses; I will answer it.
I am too bold. 'Tis not to me she speaks.
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
Having some business, ⌜do⌝ entreat her eyes
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.
What if her eyes were there, they in her head?
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars
As daylight doth a lamp; her eye in heaven
Would through the airy region stream so bright
That birds would sing and think it were not night.
See how she leans her cheek upon her hand.
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek

Starting with this extract, explain how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feeling about love in Romeo and Juliet.

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo in this speech.
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]