Section A: Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from the start of Act 3 Scene 1 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Romeo decided to avenge the death of Mercutio by killing Tybalt.

BENVOLIO
O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio is dead.
That gallant spirit hath aspired the clouds,
Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.
ROMEO
This day's black fate on more days doth depend.
This but begins the woe others must end.

⌜*Enter Tybalt.*⌝

BENVOLIO
Here comes the furious Tybalt back again.
ROMEO
⌜Alive⌝ in triumph, and Mercutio slain!
Away to heaven, respective lenity,
And⌜fire-eyed⌝ fury be my conduct now.—
Now, Tybalt, take the "villain" back again
That late thou gavest me, for Mercutio's soul
Is but a little way above our heads,
Staying for thine to keep him company.
Either thou or I, or both, must go with him.
TYBALT
Thou wretched boy that didst consort him here
Shalt with him hence.
ROMEO This shall determine that.
They fight. Tybalt falls.

Starting with this extract, explore how far Shakespeare presents love as a cause of violence in Romeo and Juliet.

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

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]