

ROMEO AND JULIET (20% of whole English Lit GCSE ) - Context		Key themes		Key Terms	
<b>Duelling and the concept of honour:</b> Maintaining the honour of your family name was hugely important at the time. If you were challenged to a duel and you refused, you would be deemed a coward, thus damaging your honour and the status of your family. Most Elizabethan gentlemen carried swords in public and many did fight in the streets.		<b>CONFLICT:</b> Conflict is one of the key driving forces in the play and it occurs between a range of characters: between warring households; within families; within friendship groups; and between members of the communities. This conflict results in violence; violence opens the play in scene one and it also concludes the play with the deaths of the two lovers. It is worth noting that the motif of light vs dark is also linked to many of these themes.		<input type="checkbox"/> violence & hate	
<b>Courtly Love &amp; cures for lovesickness:</b> common in medieval literature where a knight was consumed with passion for an unattainable noblewoman; Romeo fits this perfectly. Elizabethan doctors saw unrequited love or desire as a disease, a type of melancholy sometimes called lovesickness. They tried various cures and sometimes sent patients to church to confess to a priest. They believed that if lovesickness was left untreated, it could lead to madness.				<input type="checkbox"/> death,	
<b>Role of women in a patriarchal society:</b> Elizabethan England was a society controlled by men. Women were seen as the weaker sex & were expected to be meek & mild, and most importantly, obedient to their fathers & later their husbands.		<b>LOVE:</b> The love Romeo and Juliet share is beautiful, passionate, exhilarating, transformative and they are willing to give everything for it. But it is also chaotic and destructive, bringing death to friends, family and to themselves. It is worth noting that the motif of light vs dark is also linked to many of these themes.		<input type="checkbox"/> secrecy	
<b>Arranged marriages:</b> Marriages amongst the wealthy were arranged by parents in order to match or improve social standing. However, in practice, parents did try to choose someone their child liked and was happy to marry. Secret marriages such as that between the young Romeo and Juliet would have been both illegal and shocking.				<input type="checkbox"/> family	
<b>The Italian setting of the play:</b> The play is set in Italy, which was known for its warring states. It is also a Catholic country; religion was extremely important and marriage vows were seen as sacred – once made, they could not be broken.		<b>FATE:</b> No matter how much they love each other or what plans they make, their struggles against fate only help fulfil it. But defeating or escaping fate is not the point. No one escapes fate. It is Romeo and Juliet's determination to struggle against fate in order to be together, whether in life or death, that shows the fiery passion of their love and which makes that love eternal.		<input type="checkbox"/> youth vs age	
Plot				<input type="checkbox"/> individual vs society/religion	
ACT 1		AO1 (40%)		Make an informed personal response using a critical style. Use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.	
ACT 2		AO2 (40%)		Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.	
ACT 3		AO3 (20%)		Show understanding of the relationships between texts & the contexts in which they were written.	
ACT 4		AO4 (4 marks)		Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.	
ACT 5					
Significant characters					
Romeo		A young Montague. Not interested in violence, only love. He's passionate and sensitive yet also impulsive.		Tragedy	
Juliet		A young Capulet. Naïve and sheltered at the beginning, develops into a strong character. Grounded.		Protagonist	
Friar Lawrence		Friend to both Romeo and Juliet. Civic-minded. Also expert with potions & herbs.		Antagonist	
Nurse		Like a mother to Juliet / confidante. Earthy/sexual. Often says inappropriate things.		Prologue	
Capulet		Juliet's father. Prudent and caring but can fly into rage if respect is lacking.		Monologue	
Mercutio		Romeo's close friend. Witty, bawdy, cynical and a hot-headed character.		Soliloquy	
Benvolio		Romeo's cousin. Tries to keep the peace and keep Romeo's mind off of Rosaline.		Sonnet form	
Prince		Leader of Verona, concerned with keeping order between the warring families.		Dramatic irony	
Tybalt		Juliet's cousin. Obsessed by family honour; quick to draw his sword. Hates Montagues.		Foreshadowing	
				Juxtaposition	
				Oxymoron	
				Iambic pentameter	
				Prose	
				Religious imagery	
				Metaphor	
				Simile	
				Plosives	
				Sibilance	
				Pun	
				Bawdy humour	
				Patriarchy	
				Stretch yourself	
				➤ Whilst analysing the extract, quickly refer out to other parts of the play.	
				➤ Watch different performances of key scenes to provide you with 'ammunition' when discussing form.	