

ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: 16 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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PERCENTAGE

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STEMUP

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Beatrice and Benedick meet for the first time since the soldiers returned to Messina and begin trading insults in front of the prince's party.

BEATRICE

I wonder that you will still be talking, Signior

Benedick: nobody marks you.

BENEDICK

What, my dear Lady Disdain! are you yet living?

BEATRICE

Is it possible disdain should die while she hath

such meet food to feed it as Signior Benedick?

Courtesy itself must convert to disdain, if you come in her presence.

BENEDICK

Then is courtesy a turncoat. But it is certain I

am loved of all ladies, only you excepted: and I

would I could find in my heart that I had not a hard heart; for, truly, I love none.

BEATRICE

A dear happiness to women: they would else have

been troubled with a pernicious suitor. I thank God

and my cold blood, I am of your humour for that: I

had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man

swear he loves me.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Beatrice in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Beatrice and Benedick insult each other in a 'merry war' of wit, each claiming to despise love and marriage.

Explain the importance of love and conflict between the sexes elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how love and conflict between the sexes is presented
- the effects love and conflict between the sexes has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents love and conflict between the sexes in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

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(b) In this extract, Beatrice and Benedick insult each other in a 'merry war' of wit, each
claiming to despise love and marriage.

Explain the importance of the character of Beatrice elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Beatrice is presented
- the effects Beatrice has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 1 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Beatrice is joking with her uncle Leonato and her cousin Hero about why she will never marry, just before the masked ball begins.

BEATRICE

Yes, faith; it is my cousin's duty to make curtsy and say 'Father, as it please you.' But yet for all that, cousin, let him be a handsome fellow, or else make another curtsy and say 'Father, as it please me.'

LEONATO

Well, niece, I hope to see you one day fitted with a husband.

BEATRICE

Not till God make men of some other metal than earth. Would it not grieve a woman to be overmastered with a piece of valiant dust? to make an account of her life to a clod of wayward marl? No, uncle, I'll none: Adam's sons are my brethren; and, truly, I hold it a sin to match in my kindred.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Beatrice in this extract. Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Beatrice mocks the idea of obeying a husband and says she will only marry a man made of something finer than earth.

Explain the importance of marriage and gender roles elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how marriage and gender roles is presented
- the effects marriage and gender roles has within the play

(20)

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(b) In this extract, Beatrice mocks the idea of obeying a husband and says she will only marry a man made of something finer than earth.

Explain the importance of the character of Beatrice elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Beatrice is presented
- the effects Beatrice has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 3 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Benedick has hidden in the orchard and overheard Don Pedro, Claudio and Leonato pretend that Beatrice secretly loves him.

BENEDICK

[Coming forward] This can be no trick: the conference was sadly borne. They have the truth of this from Hero. They seem to pity the lady: it seems her affections have their full bent. Love me! why, it must be requited. I hear how I am censured: they say I will bear myself proudly, if I perceive the love come from her; they say too that she will rather die than give any sign of affection. I did never think to marry: I must not seem proud: happy are they that hear their detractions and can put them to mending. They say the lady is fair; 'tis a truth, I can bear them witness; and virtuous; 'tis so, I cannot reprove it; and wise, but for loving me; by my troth, it is no addition to her wit, nor no great argument of her folly, for I will be horribly in love with her. I may chance have some odd quirks and remnants of wit broken on me, because I have railed so long against marriage: but doth not the appetite alter? a man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Benedick in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Benedick believes the trick, decides to return Beatrice's supposed love and abandons his vow to die a bachelor.

Explain the importance of deception and self-deception elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how deception and self-deception is presented
- the effects deception and self-deception has within the play

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(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents deception and self-deception in this extract. Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

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(b) In this extract, Benedick believes the trick, decides to return Beatrice's supposed love and abandons his vow to die a bachelor.

Explain the importance of the character of Benedick elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Benedick is presented
- the effects Benedick has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Beatrice has hidden in the garden and overheard Hero and Ursula say that Benedick loves her and that she is too scornful.

HERO

If it proves so, then loving goes by haps:
Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.
[Exeunt HERO and URSULA]

BEATRICE

[Coming forward]
What fire is in mine ears? Can this be true?
Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much?
Contempt, farewell! and maiden pride, adieu!
No glory lives behind the back of such.
And, Benedick, love on; I will requite thee,
Taming my wild heart to thy loving hand:
If thou dost love, my kindness shall incite thee
To bind our loves up in a holy band;
For others say thou dost deserve, and I
Believe it better than reportingly.
[Exit]

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Beatrice in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Beatrice resolves to give up her pride and scorn and return Benedick's love.

Explain the importance of love and pride elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how love and pride is presented
- the effects love and pride has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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Believe it better than reportingly.

[Exit]

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents love and pride in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Beatrice resolves to give up her pride and scorn and return Benedick's love.

Explain the importance of the character of Beatrice elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Beatrice is presented
- the effects Beatrice has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 3 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, the constable Dogberry is giving his orders to the night watch, who will later overhear the plot against Hero.

DOGBERRY

Come hither, neighbour Seacole. God hath blessed you with a good name: to be a well-favoured man is the gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature.

SECOND WATCHMAN

Both which, master constable, -

DOGBERRY

You have: I knew it would be your answer. Well, for your favour, sir, why, give God thanks, and make no boast of it; and for your writing and reading, let that appear when there is no need of such vanity. You are thought here to be the most senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch; therefore bear you the lantern. This is your charge: you shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to bid any man stand, in the prince's name.

SECOND WATCHMAN

How if a' will not stand?

DOGBERRY

Why, then, take no note of him, but let him go; and presently call the rest of the watch together and thank God you are rid of a knave.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Dogberry in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Dogberry gives the watch muddled and foolish instructions on how to do their duty.

Explain the importance of order, authority and comedy elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how order, authority and comedy is presented
- the effects order, authority and comedy has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents order, authority and comedy in this extract. Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Dogberry gives the watch muddled and foolish instructions on how to do their duty.

Explain the importance of the character of Dogberry elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Dogberry is presented
- the effects Dogberry has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Hero has been publicly shamed by Claudio at the altar, and Beatrice and Benedick are alone together for the first time since.

BEATRICE

You have stayed me in a happy hour: I was about to protest I loved you.

BENEDICK

And do it with all thy heart.

BEATRICE

I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.

BENEDICK

Come, bid me do any thing for thee.

BEATRICE

Kill Claudio.

BENEDICK

Ha! not for the wide world.

BEATRICE

You kill me to deny it. Farewell.

BENEDICK

Tarry, sweet Beatrice.

BEATRICE

I am gone, though I am here: there is no love in you: nay, I pray you, let me go.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Beatrice in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Beatrice and Benedick confess their love, and then she asks him to prove it by killing Claudio.

Explain the importance of honour, loyalty and women's reputation elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how honour, loyalty and women's reputation is presented
- the effects honour, loyalty and women's reputation has within the play

(20)

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Come, bid me do any thing for thee.

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Kill Claudio.

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(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents honour, loyalty and women's reputation in this extract.

Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

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(b) In this extract, Beatrice and Benedick confess their love, and then she asks him to prove it by killing Claudio.

Explain the importance of the character of Beatrice elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Beatrice is presented
- the effects Beatrice has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Leonato is distraught after Hero's apparent death and his brother Antonio tries to urge him to calm down.

LEONATO

I pray thee, cease thy counsel,
Which falls into mine ears as profitless
As water in a sieve: give not me counsel;
Nor let no comforter delight mine ear
But such a one whose wrongs do suit with mine.
Bring me a father that so loved his child,
Whose joy of her is overwhelm'd like mine,
And bid him speak of patience;
Measure his woe the length and breadth of mine
And let it answer every strain for strain,
As thus for thus and such a grief for such,
In every lineament, branch, shape, and form:
If such a one will smile and stroke his beard,
Bid sorrow wag, cry 'hem!' when he should groan,
Patch grief with proverbs, make misfortune drunk
With candle-wasters; bring him yet to me,
And I of him will gather patience.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Leonato in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Leonato refuses his brother's advice, saying that people can only preach patience to those in sorrow when they have not suffered themselves.
Explain the importance of grief and fatherhood elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how grief and fatherhood is presented
- the effects grief and fatherhood has within the play

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Explain the importance of the character of Leonato elsewhere in the play.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Leonato is presented
- the effects Leonato has within the play

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 4 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the play, Hero has been revealed to be alive, and Beatrice and Benedick have been tricked a second time into admitting their love in public.

BEATRICE

I would not deny you; but, by this good day, I yield
upon great persuasion; and partly to save your life,
for I was told you were in a consumption.

BENEDICK

Peace! I will stop your mouth.

[Kissing her]

DON PEDRO

How dost thou, Benedick, the married man?

BENEDICK

I'll tell thee what, prince; a college of
wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humour. Dost
thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? No:
if a man will be beaten with brains, a' shall wear
nothing handsome about him. In brief, since I do
purpose to marry, I will think nothing to any
purpose that the world can say against it; and
therefore never flout at me for what I have said
against it; for man is a giddy thing, and this is my
conclusion. For thy part, Claudio, I did think to
have beaten thee, but in that thou art like to be my
kinsman, live unbruised and love my cousin.

(a) Explore how Shakespeare presents the character of Benedick in this extract.
Refer closely to the extract in your answer.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Benedick stops Beatrice's mouth with a kiss and announces to the others that he now means to marry.

Explain the importance of love and reconciliation elsewhere in the play.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how love and reconciliation is presented
- the effects love and reconciliation has within the play

(20)

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