

Knowledge Organiser: Romeo & Juliet			What will the exam look like?	What will you be tested on?
<u>Literary Heritage</u>	<u>Knowledge – Human Experience</u>	<u>Knowledge (genre)</u>	Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question: What does the extract show an audience about..... [15]  How does Shakespeare present ..... in Romeo and Juliet? Refer to characters and events from the play in your answer. [25] inc 5 for SPaG	A01: Knowledge and understanding A02: Language, form and structure and subject terminology A04: (Question 2 only): Qulaity of Wrotten Communication (SPaG)
Shakespeare	Humans' relationships (love and conflict) in many forms	Shakespeare & Drama		

Context

**Queen Elizabeth I** – She was queen while Shakespeare was writing. Elizabeth I made Protestantism the official religion of England, which angered many Catholics, and led to much conflict. Shakespeare may be referencing this in ‘Romeo and Juliet’, with the two warring families though it is set in Italy – a Catholic country.

**Patriarchy** – patriarchal societies are ones where men are dominant, and have control over women e.g. by choosing who they would marry.

**Nurses** – employed by wealthy families to feed and care for their children.

**Fate** - the belief that your life is mapped out for you, or ‘written in the stars’. Many Elizabethans believed God decided your fate, and that astrology could help you identify your course in life.

**Bubonic Plague/Black Death** – a plague that killed many people. Sufferers were quarantined in their houses, with a red ‘X’ painted on the door, and left to die.

Themes:

Conflict	Fate	Love	Young vs old
Loyalty	Family	Violence	Relationships

Key Quotations



Prologue

1. ‘Two households, both alike in dignity’
2. ‘Ancient grudge’
3. ‘A pair of star-cross’d lovers’ with a ‘death-

Act 2

1. **Juliet, about Romeo:** ‘Tis but thy name that is my enemy’ (Sc. 2)
2. **Friar Lawrence:** ‘This alliance may so happy prove to turn your household rancour to pure love’ (Sc. 3)
3. **Friar Lawrence:** ‘These violent delights have violent ends’ (Sc. 6)

Act 3

1. **Tybalt, to Romeo:** ‘thou art a villain’ (Sc. 1)
2. **Mercutio:** ‘a plague o’ both your houses’ (Sc. 1)
3. **Mercutio:** ‘ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man.’ (Sc. 1)
4. **Romeo:** ‘O, I am fortune’s fool!’ (Sc. 1)
5. **Lady Capulet, about Juliet:** ‘I would the fool were married to her grave’ (Sc. 5)
6. **Lord Capulet, about Juliet:** ‘Hang thee young baggage, disobedient wretch!’ (Sc. 5)
7. **The Nurse, to Juliet, about Paris:** ‘I think it best you married with the County’ (Sc. 5)

Act 1

1. **Benvolio:** ‘I do but keep the peace’ (sc 1)
2. **Lord Capulet, to Paris:** ‘let two more summers wither in their pride’ (sc 2)
3. **Tybalt, about Romeo:** ‘To strike him dead I hold it not a sin’ (sc 5)
4. **Romeo, about Juliet:** ‘she doth teach the torches to burn bright’ (sc 5)
5. **Juliet, about Romeo:** ‘if he be married, /My grave is like to be my wedding bed.’ (sc 5)

Act 4

1. **Juliet, to Friar Lawrence:** ‘I long to die if what thou speak’st speak not of remedy’
2. **Lord Capulet, about Juliet:** ‘Death is my son-in-law, Death is my heir’
3. **Lord Capulet:** ‘with my child my joys are buried’

Act 5

1. **Romeo:** ‘here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes/ This vault a feasting presence full of light.’
2. **Prince:** ‘all are punish’d’
3. **Capulet:** ‘O brother Montague, give me thy hand’

**Romeo** –anywhere between 16 and 21; **Benvolio** – Romeo’s cousin; **Lord and Lady Montague** – Romeo’s parents. **Abraham; Balthasar** – servant Capulets

**Juliet** –age 13 in the play **Tybalt** – Juliet’s cousin **Lord and Lady Capulet** – Juliet’s parents **Gregory** – servant **Sampson** – servant; **The Nurse**

**Prince Escalus** – ruler of Verona **Mercutio** – related to Prince, friends with Romeo **Count Paris** – related to Prince; **Friar Lawrence** – friends with Romeo

## Understanding

**Prologue:** A sonnet, recited by the chorus, outlines the play.

### Act 1

**Act I, scene 1:** Capulet and Montague servants fight in the streets. The Prince declares that any further fighting will be punished with death. Benvolio learns Romeo is in love with Rosaline.

**Act I, scene 2:** Paris speaks to Capulet about marrying Juliet. Capulet says she is too young. Capulet's invitation list for the ball is intercepted by Benvolio and Romeo.

**Act I, scene 3:** The Nurse and Lady Capulet tell Juliet about Paris, and she agrees to consider.

**Act I, scene 4:** Romeo, Benvolio, and Mercutio arrive and talk of dreams (Queen Mab).

**Act I, scene 5:** Romeo and Juliet see each other and fall in love immediately. Tybalt sees Romeo and wants to fight him.

### Act 2

**Act II, scene 1:** Romeo separates himself from his friends.

**Act II, scene 2:** Romeo and Juliet exchange vows to marry.

**Act II, scene 3:** Romeo goes to see Friar Lawrence to ask for his help with marrying Juliet. The Friar agrees, hoping that their alliance will end their families' feuding.

**Act II, scene 4:** Benvolio and Mercutio discuss Tybalt, who has challenged Romeo to a duel. Romeo arranges for the Nurse to receive a rope-ladder for Juliet to lower for him that night.

**Act II, scene 5:** The Nurse then tells her the good news.

**Act II, scene 6:** Juliet comes to Romeo in Friar Lawrence's cell, and they greet each other joyfully. The Friar prepares to marry them.

### Act 3

**Act III, scene 1:** Romeo refuses to accept Tybalt's challenge to a duel. Mercutio is killed by Tybalt. Romeo fights and kills Tybalt to get revenge. The Prince banishes Romeo to Mantua.

**Act III, scene 2:** Juliet waits for Romeo to come. The Nurse brings her word of Tybalt's death and Romeo's banishment.

**Act III, scene 3:** The Friar chastises Romeo for behaving so foolishly and proposes that, after a night with Juliet, Romeo should flee to Mantua.

**Act III, scene 4:** Capulet decides to marry Juliet to Paris in three days.

**Act III, scene 5:** Romeo and Juliet awake after spending the night together and Romeo leaves. Lady Capulet arrives and tells Juliet about her impending marriage. Juliet refuses. The Nurse advises that Juliet ignore her marriage to Romeo and marry Paris.

### Act 4

**Act IV, scene 1:** Juliet interrupts Paris talking to Friar Lawrence and, when he leaves, threatens to kill herself if the Friar doesn't help her. He agrees to provide her with a potion that will make her seem to be dead, until Romeo collects her from the family crypt.

**Act IV, scene 2:** Juliet apologizes to her father, promising to obey him and marry Paris. Capulet moves the wedding up a day to the next morning.

**Act IV, scene 3:** Juliet drinks the potion.

**Act IV, scene 4:** Capulet sends the Nurse to awaken Juliet on the morning of her wedding day.

**Act IV, scene 5:** The Nurse finds Juliet dead and the family grieve for her.

### Act 5

**Act V, scene 1:** Balthasar arrives in Mantua and tells Romeo that Juliet has died. Romeo immediately plans to join her and buys a poison.

**Act V, scene 2:** Friar John reports to Friar Lawrence that he has been unable to deliver Lawrence's letter to Romeo.

**Act V, scene 3:** Paris visits Juliet's tomb at night. Romeo appears with Balthasar, whom he sends away. Romeo kills Paris. Romeo then enters the crypt, drinks the poison, and dies. Friar Lawrence begs Juliet to flee. She kisses her dead lover and stabs herself with his dagger. The watchmen appear, arresting Balthasar and the Friar as the Prince arrives, followed by both families. The Friar explains what has happened, and his tale is confirmed by Balthasar and by Romeo's letter to his father. Montague and Capulet make peace and vow to erect golden statues of the two lovers.

## Subject Terminology

### Oxymoron

Romeo: 'Cold fire, sick health' – Shows confusion

### Sonnet:

E.G. The Prologue  
Shows a deep love theme

**Soliloquy:** E.G. *Romeo and Juliet*. Deep, private thoughts of characters.

**Personification** 'I defy you stars'  
The object in question is in control.

**Metaphor:** 'Hang thee young baggage'. Comparing an image to convey meaning.

**Simile:** 'Death lies on her like an untimely frost'

### Dramatic Irony:

The audience knows things than most characters don't

## Extra information if needed

### Critical Vocabulary

#### Shakespeare presents the Montagues and their supporters as...

##### Romeo

1. **Melancholic** – someone who is prone to moping and being depressed.
2. **Quixotic** – extremely idealistic: unrealistic and impractical.
3. **Ardent** – enthusiastic and passionate.

##### Benvolio

1. **Appeasing** - someone who tries to pacify others.
2. **Sincere** - honest and genuine.
3. **Stalwart** – loyal and reliable.

##### Mercutio

1. **Anarchic** – unruly and chaotic.
2. **Impulsive** – someone who acts on a whim, without thinking.
3. **Precocious** – someone who 'shows off' their intelligence arrogantly

#### Shakespeare presents the Capulets and their supporters as...

##### Juliet

1. **Idealistic** – someone who believes whole-heartedly in something, even if it is unrealistic.
2. **Ingenuous** – innocent, naïve and unworldly.
3. **Resolute** – someone who has made their mind up and whose opinion cannot be changed.

##### Tybalt

1. **Volatile** – someone who could explode at any moment.
2. **Tempestuous** – someone who is unpredictable and has many conflicting emotions.
3. **Righteous** – someone who believes what they are doing is morally justifiable.





Romeo



Juliet



Friar Laurence



Nurse



Mercutio



Tybalt



Lord Capulet



Lady Capulet



The Apothecary



Lord Montague



Lady Montague



Chorus



Prince Escalus



Count Paris



Friar John



Benvolio



Balthazar



Abraham



Peter



Sampson



Gregory



Homogenous Character



Homogenous Character



Homogenous Character