Much Ado About Nothing

Answer ***both*** **4 1** ***and*** **4 2** *.*

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on **4 1** *, and about 40 minutes on* **4 2** *.*

4 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question.

Look at how Leonato speaks and behaves here. How do you think an audience might respond to this part of the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer. [15]

* **4 2** Write about Benedick and how he is presented at different points in the play. [25]

**5 of this question's marks are allocated for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and the use of vocabulary and sentence structures.*

BENEDICK How doth the lady?

BEATRICE Dead I think. Help, uncle!
Hero! Why Hero! Uncle! Signor Benedick! Friar!

LEONATO O Fate, take not away thy heavy hand.
Death is the fairest cover for her shame
That may be wished for.

BEATRICE How now cousin Hero?

FRIAR Have comfort lady.

LEONATO Dost thou look up?

FRIAR Yea, wherefore should she not?

LEONATO Wherefore? Why, doth not every earthly thing
Cry shame upon her? Could she here deny
The story that is printed in her blood?
Do not live Hero, do not ope thine eyes.
For did I think thou wouldst not quickly die,
Thought I thy spirits were stronger than thy shames,
Myself would on the rearward of reproaches
Strike at thy life. Grieved I, I had but one?
Chid I for that at frugal nature's frame?
O one too much by thee — why had I one?
Why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes?
Why had I not with charitable hand
Took up a beggar's issue at my gates,
Who smirched thus and mired with infamy,
I might have said 'No part of it is mine;
This shame derives itself from unknown loins'?
But mine, and mine I loved, and mine I praised,
And mine that I was proud on; mine so much
That I myself was to myself not mine,
Valuing of her — why she? O she is fallen
Into a pit of ink, that the wide sea
Hath drops too few to wash her clean again
And salt too little which may season give
To her foul tainted flesh.

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4 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

Look at how Benedick and Beatrice speak and behave here. How do you think an audience might respond to this part of the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer. [15]

* **4 2** Write about Hero and how she is presented at different points in the play. [25]

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BENEDICK If Signor Leonato be her father, she would not have his head on her shoulders for all Messina, as like him as she is.

BEATRICE I wonder that you will still be talking, Signor 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 Signor 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.

BENEDICK God keep your ladyship still in that mind! So some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate scratched face.

BEATRICE Scratching could not make it worse an 'twere such a face as yours were.

BENEDICK Well, you are a rare parrot-teacher.

BEATRICE A bird of my tongue is better than a beast of yours.

BENEDICK I would my horse had the speed of your tongue, and so good a continuer. But keep your way, i' God's name, I have done.

BEATRICE You always end with a jade's trick. I know you of old.

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Look at how the characters speak and behave here. How do you think an audience might respond to this part of the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer. [15]

* **4 2** Write about Claudio and how he is presented in *Much Ado About Nothing*. [25]

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DON PEDRO In faith, lady, you have a merry heart.

BEATRICE Yea, my lord, I thank it, poor fool it keeps on the windy side of care: my cousin tells him in his ear that he is in her heart.

CLAUDIO And so she doth, cousin.

BEATRICE Good Lord for alliance: thus goes every one to the world but I, and I am sunburnt, I may sit in a corner and cry, 'Heigh ho for a husband.'

DON PEDRO Lady Beatrice, I will get you one.

BEATRICE I would rather have one of your father's getting: hath your grace ne'er a brother like you? Your father got excellent husbands, if a maid could come by them.

DON PEDRO Will you have me, lady?

BEATRICE No, my lord, unless I might have another for working-days, your grace is too costly to wear every day: but I beseech your grace pardon me, I was born to speak all mirth, and no matter.

DON PEDRO Your silence most offends me, and to be merry, best becomes you, for out a question, you were born in a merry hour.

BEATRICE No sure, my lord, my mother cried, but then there was a star danced, and under that was I born: cousins, God give you joy.

LEONATO Niece, will you look to those things I told you of?

BEATRICE I cry you mercy, uncle: by your grace's pardon. *Exit*

DON PEDRO By my troth a pleasant spirited lady.

LEONATO There's little of the melancholy element in her, my lord, she is never sad, but when she sleeps, and not ever sad then: for I have heard my daughter say, she hath often dreamed of unhappiness, and waked herself with laughing.

DON PEDRO She cannot endure to hear tell of a husband.

LEONATO Oh by no means, she mocks all her wooers out of suit.

DON PEDRO She were an excellent wife for Benedick.

LEONATO Oh Lord, my lord, if they were but a week married, they would talk themselves mad.

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4 1 Read the extract on the opposite page. Then answer the following question:

Look at how Beatrice and Benedick speak and behave here. How do you think an audience might respond to this part of the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer. [15]

* **4 2** *'Much Ado About Nothing* is a play where characters are often fooled or deceived.' Write about some of the times in the play when characters are fooled or deceived and how Shakespeare presents this. [25]

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BEATRICE Kill Claudio.

BENEDICK Ha, not for the wide world.

BEATRICE You kill me to deny it, farewell. *[She starts to leave.]*

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.

BENEDICK Beatrice –

BEATRICE In faith I will go.

BENEDICK We'll be friends first.

BEATRICE You dare easier be friends with me than fight with mine enemy.

BENEDICK Is Claudio thine enemy?

BEATRICE Is he not approved in the height a villain, that hath slandered, scorned, dishonoured my kinswoman? O that I were a man! What, bear her in hand until they come to take hands, and then with public accusation, uncovered slander, unmitigated rancour – O God, that I were a man! I would eat his heart in the marketplace.

BENEDICK Hear me, Beatrice –

BEATRICE Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying!

BENEDICK Nay but Beatrice –

BEATRICE Sweet Hero, she is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone.

BENEDICK Beat–

BEATRICE Princes and counties! Surely a princely testimony, a goodly Count. Count Comfect, a sweet gallant surely. O that I were a man for his sake! Or that I had any friend would be a man for my sake! But manhood is melted into curtsies, valour into compliment, and men are only turned into tongue, and trim ones too. He is now as valiant as Hercules that only tells a lie, and swears it. I cannot be a man with wishing, therefore I will die a woman with grieving.

BENEDICK Tarry good Beatrice, by this hand I love thee.

BEATRICE Use it for my love some other way than swearing by it.

BENEDICK Think you in your soul the Count Claudio hath wronged Hero?

BEATRICE Yea, as sure as I have a thought, or a soul.

BENEDICK Enough, I am engaged, I will challenge him.

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Look at how Beatrice and Benedick speak and behave here. How do you think an audience might respond to this part of the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer. [15]

* **4 2** *Much Ado About Nothing* is a play about friendship. Write about how Shakespeare presents some of the friendships at different points in the play. Refer to characters and events from the play in your answer. [25]

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BENEDICK [*He steps out*.] 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. Shall quips and sentences and these paper bullets of the brain awe a man from the career of his humour? No, the world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married. Here comes Beatrice. By this day, she's a fair lady. I do spy some marks of love in her.

Enter BEATRICE

BEATRICE Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner.

BENEDICK Fair Beatrice, I thank you for your pains.

BEATRICE I took no more pains for those thanks than you take pains to thank me. If it had been painful, I would not have come.

BENEDICK You take pleasure then, in the message?

BEATRICE Yea, just so much as you may take upon a knife's point, and choke a daw withal. You have no stomach signor? Fare you well. *Exit* BEATRICE

BENEDICK Ha! "Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner." There's a double meaning in that.

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Look at how the characters speak and behave here. How do you think an audience might respond to this part of the play? Refer closely to details from the extract to support your answer. [15]

* **4 2** How does Shakespeare present love in *Much Ado About Nothing*? Refer to characters and events from the play in your answer. [25]

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DON PEDRO How now, two of my brother's men bound? Borachio one.

CLAUDIO Hearken after their offence, my lord.

DON PEDRO Officers, what offence have these men done?

DOGBERRY Marry, sir, they have committed false report, moreover they have spoken untruths, secondarily, they are slanders, sixth and lastly, they have belied a lady, thirdly they have verified unjust things, and to conclude, they are lying knaves.

DON PEDRO First I ask thee what they have done, thirdly I ask thee what's their offence, sixth and lastly why they are committed, and to conclude, what you lay to their charge?

CLAUDIO Rightly reasoned, and in his own division, and by my troth there's one meaning well suited.

DON PEDRO Who have you offended, masters, that you are thus bound to your answer? This learned constable is too cunning to be understood: what's your offence?

BORACHIO Sweet prince, let me go no farther to mine answer: do you hear me, and let this count kill me: I have deceived even your very eyes: what your wisdoms could not discover, these shallow fools have brought to light, who in the night overheard me confessing to this man, how Don John your brother incensed me to slander the Lady Hero, how you were brought into the orchard, and saw me court Margaret in Hero's garments, how you disgraced her when you should marry her: my villainy they have upon record, which I had rather seal with my death, than repeat over to my shame: the lady is dead upon mine and my master's false accusation: and briefly I desire nothing but the reward of a villain.

DON PEDRO Runs not this speech like iron through your blood?

CLAUDIO I have drunk poison whiles he uttered it.

DON PEDRO But did my brother set thee on to this?

BORACHIO Yea, and paid me richly for the practice of it.

DON PEDRO He is composed and framed of treachery,
And fled he is upon this villainy.

CLAUDIO Sweet Hero, now thy image doth appear
In the rare semblance that I loved it first.