AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*
Read the following extract from Act 1, scene 1 then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Leonato is talking about Benedick's return and his niece, Beatrice's reaction to him.

BEATRICE
He set up his bills here in Messina and challenged Cupid at the flight; and my uncle's fool, reading the challenge, subscribed for Cupid, and challenged him at the bird-bolt. I pray you, how many hath he killed and eaten in these wars? But how many hath he killed? for indeed I promised to eat all of his killing.
LEONATO
Faith, niece, you tax Signior Benedick too much; but he'll be meet with you, I doubt it not.

Messenger
He hath done good service, lady, in these wars.

BEATRICE
You had musty victual, and he hath holp to eat it: he is a very valiant trencherman; he hath an excellent stomach.

Messenger
And a good soldier too, lady.

BEATRICE
And a good soldier to a lady: but what is he to a lord?

Messenger
A lord to a lord, a man to a man; stuffed with all honourable virtues.

BEATRICE
It is so, indeed; he is no less than a stuffed man: but for the stuffing,—well, we are all mortal.
LEYNATO
You must not, sir, mistake my niece. There is a kind of merry war betwixt Signior Benedick and her: they never meet but there's a skirmish of wit between them.

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Beatrice as witty.
Write about
• how Shakespeare presents Beatrice in this extract;
• how Shakespeare presents Beatrice in the play as a whole.
AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*
Read the following extract from Act 2, scene 3 then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Benedick has overheard his friends saying that Beatrice is secretly in love with 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. 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.

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Benedick as willing to change.

Write about
• how Shakespeare presents Benedick in this extract;
• how Shakespeare presents Benedick in the play as a whole.

30 marks
+ 4 marks AO4
AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*
Read the following extract from Act 1, scene 3 then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Don John is looking for a way to hurt his brother, Don Pedro.

**CONRADE**
Yea, but you must not make the full show of this till you may do it without controlment. You have of late stood out against your brother, and he hath ta'en you newly into his grace; where it is impossible you should take true root but by the fair weather that you make yourself: it is needful that you frame the season for your own harvest.

**DON JOHN**
I had rather be a canker in a hedge than a rose in his grace, and it better fits my blood to be disdained of all than to fashion a carriage to rob love from any: in this, though I cannot be said to be a flattering honest man, it must not be denied but I am a plain-dealing villain. I am trusted with a muzzle and enfranchised with a clog; therefore I have decreed not to sing in my cage. If I had my mouth, I would bite; if I had my liberty, I would do my liking: in the meantime let me be that I am and seek not to alter me.

**CONRADE**
Can you make no use of your discontent?

**DON JOHN**
I make all use of it, for I use it only.
Who comes here?
*Enter BORACHIO*
What news, Borachio?

**BORACHIO**
I came yonder from a great supper: the prince your brother is royally entertained by Leonato: and I can give you intelligence of an intended marriage.

**DON JOHN**
Will it serve for any model to build mischief on? What is he for a fool that betroths himself to unquietness?

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Don John as villainous.
Write about
- how Shakespeare presents Don John in this extract;
- how Shakespeare presents Don John in the play as a whole

(30 + 4 marks)
AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*

Read the following extract from Act 3, scene 2 then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Claudio is being tricked into believing Hero is deceiving him.

**DON JOHN**
I came hither to tell you; and, circumstances shortened, for she has been too long a talking of, the lady is disloyal.

**CLAUDIO**
Who, Hero?

**DON PEDRO**
Even she; Leonato's Hero, your Hero, every man's Hero:

**CLAUDIO**
Disloyal?

**DON JOHN**
The word is too good to paint out her wickedness; I could say she were worse: think you of a worse title, and I will fit her to it. Wonder not till further warrant: go but with me to-night, you shall see her chamber-window entered, even the night before her wedding-day: if you love her then, to-morrow wed her; but it would better fit your honour to change your mind.

**CLAUDIO**
May this be so?

**DON PEDRO**
I will not think it.

**DON JOHN**
If you dare not trust that you see, confess not that you know: if you will follow me, I will show you enough; and when you have seen more and heard more, proceed accordingly.

**CLAUDIO**
If I see any thing to-night why I should not marry her to-morrow in the congregation, where I should wed, there will I shame her.

**DON PEDRO**
And, as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will join with thee to disgrace her.

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Claudio as susceptible and easily tricked.

Write about
- how Shakespeare presents Claudio in this extract;
- how Shakespeare presents Claudio in the play as a whole

(30 + 4 marks)
AQA Shakespeare Much Ado About Nothing
Read the following extract from Act 4, scene 1 then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Leonarto believes the lies told about his daughter, Hero.

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 smirch'd 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!

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Leonarto as a parent.
Write about
• how Shakespeare presents Leonarto in this extract;
• how Shakespeare presents Leonarto in the play as a whole.

30 marks
+ 4 marks AO4
AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*
Read the following extract from Act 1, scene 1 then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Beatrice and Benedick are exchanging insults.

**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.

**BENEDICK**
God keep your ladyship still in that mind! so some gentleman or other shall 'scape a predestinate

**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.

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Beatrice and Benedick as clever.

Write about

- how Shakespeare presents Beatrice and Benedick in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Beatrice and Benedick in the play as a whole

(30 + 4 marks)
AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*
Read the following extract from Act 1, scene 1 then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Benedick is being teased about his attitude to love.

**DON PEDRO**
Thou wast ever an obstinate heretic in the despite of beauty.

**CLAUDIO**
And never could maintain his part but in the force of his will.

**BENEDICK**
That a woman conceived me, I thank her; that she brought me up, I likewise give her most humble thanks: but that I will have a recheat winded in my forehead, or hang my bugle in an invisible baldric, all women shall pardon me. Because I will not do them the wrong to mistrust any, I will do myself the right to trust none; and the fine is, for the which I may go the finer, I will live a bachelor.

**DON PEDRO**
I shall see thee, ere I die, look pale with love.

**BENEDICK**
With anger, with sickness, or with hunger, my lord, not with love: prove that ever I lose more blood with love than I will get again with drinking, pick out mine eyes with a ballad-maker's pen and hang me up at the door of a brothel-house for the sign of blind Cupid.

**DON PEDRO**
Well, if ever thou dost fall from this faith, thou wilt prove a notable argument.

**BENEDICK**
If I do, hang me in a bottle like a cat and shoot at me; and he that hits me, let him be clapped on the shoulder, and called Adam.

**DON PEDRO**
Well, as time shall try: 'Tis time the savage bull doth bear the yoke.'

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Benedick as independent.

Write about
- how Shakespeare presents Benedick in this extract;
- how Shakespeare presents Benedick in the play as a whole

(30 + 4 marks)
AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*
Read the following extract from Act 2, scene 1 then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Beatrice is being criticised for her attitude to marriage.

**BEATRICE**  
With a good leg and a good foot, uncle, and money enough in his purse, such a man would win any woman in the world, if a' could get her good-will.  
**LEONATO**  
By my troth, niece, thou wilst never get thee a husband, if thou be so shrewd of thy tongue.  
**ANTONIO**  
In faith, she's too curst.  
**BEATRICE**  
Too curst is more than curst: I shall lessen God's sending that way; for it is said, 'God sends a curst cow short horns;' but to a cow too curst he sends none.  
**LEONATO**  
So, by being too curst, God will send you no horns.  
**BEATRICE**  
Just, if he send me no husband; for the which blessing I am at him upon my knees every morning and evening. Lord, I could not endure a husband with a beard on his face: I had rather lie in the woollen.  
**LEONATO**  
You may light on a husband that hath no beard.  
**BEATRICE**  
What should I do with him? dress him in my apparel and make him my waiting-gentlewoman? He that hath a beard is more than a youth, and he that hath no beard is less than a man: and he that is more than a youth is not for me, and he that is less than a man, I am not for him: therefore, I will even take sixpence in earnest of the bear-ward, and lead his apes into hell.

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Beatrice as independent.  
Write about  
- how Shakespeare presents Beatrice in this extract;  
- how Shakespeare presents Beatrice in the play as a whole.
AQA Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing*

Read the following extract from Act 2, scene 2 then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Don John is looking to cause trouble.

**DON JOHN**

Any bar, any cross, any impediment will be medicinal to me: I am sick in displeasure to him, and whatsoever comes athwart his affection ranges evenly with mine. How canst thou cross this marriage?

**BORACHIO**

Not honestly, my lord; but so covertly that no dishonesty shall appear in me.

**DON JOHN**

Show me briefly how.

**BORACHIO**

I think I told your lordship a year since, how much I am in the favour of Margaret, the waiting gentlewoman to Hero.

**DON JOHN**

I remember.

**BORACHIO**

I can, at any unseasonable instant of the night, appoint her to look out at her lady's chamber window.

**DON JOHN**

What life is in that, to be the death of this marriage?

**BORACHIO**

The poison of that lies in you to temper. Go you to the prince your brother; spare not to tell him that he hath wronged his honour in marrying the renowned Claudio--whose estimation do you mightily hold up—to a contaminated stale, such a one as Hero.

**DON JOHN**

What proof shall I make of that?

**BORACHIO**

Proof enough to misuse the prince, to vex Claudio, to undo Hero and kill Leonato. Look you for any other issue?

**DON JOHN**

Only to despite them, I will endeavour any thing.

Starting with this conversation, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Don John as cruel.

Write about

• how Shakespeare presents Don John in this extract;

• how Shakespeare presents Don John in the play as a whole

(30 + 4 marks)