Enter DON JOHN and CONRADE

CONRADE: What the good year, my lord, why are you thus out of measure sad?

DON JOHN: There is no measure in the occasion that breeds, therefore the sadness is without limit.

CONRADE: You should hear reason.

DON JOHN: And when I have heard it, what blessing brings it?

CONRADE: If not a present remedy, at least a patient sufferance.

DON JOHN: I wonder that thou (being as thou sayest thou art, born under Saturn) goest about to apply a moral medicine to a mortifying mischief. I cannot hide what I am: I must be sad when I have cause, and smile at no man’s jests: eat when I have stomach, and wait for no man’s leisure: sleep when I am drowsy, and tend on no man’s business: laugh when I am merry, and claw no man in his humour.

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 mean time, 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.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present the thoughts and feelings of Don John in Much Ado About Nothing?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents the thoughts and feelings of Don John in this conversation
• how Shakespeare presents the thoughts and feelings of Don John in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Claudio has publicly shamed Hero and refused to marry her.

**CLAUDIO:** Oh Hero! What a hero hadst thou been,
If half thy outward graces had been placed
About thy thoughts and counsels of thy heart?
But fare thee well, most foul, most fair, farewell
Thou pure impiety, and impious purity,
For thee I’ll lock up all the gates of love,
And on my eyelids shall conjecture hang,
To turn all beauty into thoughts of harm,
And never shall it more be gracious.

**LEONATO:** Hath no man’s dagger here a point for me?
[Hero faints]

**BEATRICE:** Why how now, cousin, wherefore sink you down?

**DON JOHN:** Come let us go: these things come thus to light,
Smother her spirits up.
[Exeunt Don Pedro, Don John and Claudio]

**BENEDICK:** How doth the lady?

**BEATRICE:** Dead I think, help, uncle!

**LEONATO:** Oh Fate! Take not away thy heavy hand,
Death is the fairest cover for her shame
That may be wished for.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present characters’ attitudes towards Hero in Much Ado About Nothing?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare present characters’ attitudes towards Hero in this conversation
• how Shakespeare present characters’ attitudes towards Hero in the play as a whole.
**Much Ado About Nothing**

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

At this point in the play, Beatrice is discussing Benedick – having just been informed he is on his way to Messina.

**LEONATO** You must not, sir, mistake my niece: there is a kind of merry war betwixt Signor Benedick and her: they never meet but there’s a skirmish of wit between them.

**BEATRICE** Alas, he gets nothing by that. In our last conflict, four of his five wits went halting off, and now is the whole man governed with one: so that if he have wit enough to keep himself warm, let him bear it for a difference between himself and his horse, for it is all the wealth that he hath left to be known a reasonable creature. Who is his companion now? He hath every month a new sworn brother.

**MESSENGER** Is’t possible?

**BEATRICE** Very easily possible: he wears his faith but as the fashion of his hat, it ever changes with the next block.

**MESSENGER** I see, lady, the gentleman is not in your books.

**BEATRICE** No, and he were, I would burn my study. But I pray you, who is his companion? Is there no young squarer now, that will make a voyage with him to the devil?

**MESSENGER** He is most in the company of the right noble Claudio.

**BEATRICE** O Lord, he will hang upon him like a disease: he is sooner caught than the pestilence, and the taker runs presently mad. God help the noble Claudio, if he hath caught the Benedict. It will cost him a thousand pound ere a be cured.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present Beatrice’s feelings about Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Beatrice’s feelings about Benedick in this conversation
- how Shakespeare presents Beatrice’s feelings about Benedick in the play as a whole.
Enter LEONATO and DOGBERRY the Constable and VERGES the Headborough

LEONATO What would you with me, honest neighbour?

DOGBERRY Marry, sir, I would have some confidence with you, that decerns you nearly.

LEONATO Brief I pray you, for you see it is a busy time with me.

DOGBERRY Marry this it is, sir.

VERGES Yes in truth it is, sir.

LEONATO What is it, my good friends?

DOGBERRY Goodman Verges, sir, speaks a little off the matter, an old man, sir, and his wits are not so blunt, as God help I would desire they were, but in faith honest, as the skin between his brows.

VERGES Yes I thank God, I am honest as any man living, that is an old man, and no honester than I.

DOGBERRY Comparisons are odorous, palabras, neighbour Verges.

LEONATO Neighbours, you are tedious.

DOGBERRY It pleases your worship to say so, but we are the poor duke’s officers, but truly for mine own part, if I were as tedious as a king, I could find in my heart to bestow it all of your worship.

LEONATO All thy tediousness on me, ah?

DOGBERRY Yea, and ’twere a thousand pound more than ’tis, for I hear as good exclamation on your worship as of any man in the city, and though I be but a poor man, I am glad to hear it.

VERGES And so am I.

LEONATO I would fain know what you have to say.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare use comedy in Much Ado About Nothing?
Write about:
• how Shakespeare uses comedy in this conversation
• how Shakespeare uses comedy in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Claudio has revealed to Benedick his love for Hero.

Claudio Thou thinkest I am in sport. I pray thee, tell me truly how thou lik’st her?
Benedick Would you buy her, that you enquire after her?
Claudio Can the world buy such a jewel?
Benedick Yea, and a case to put it into. But speak you this with a sad brow? Or do you play the flouting Jack, to tell us Cupid is a good harefinder, and Vulcan a rare carpenter? Come, in what key shall a man take you, to go in the song?
Claudio In mine eye, she is the sweetest lady that ever I looked on.
Benedick I can see yet without spectacles, and I see no such matter. There’s her cousin, and she were not possessed with a fury, exceeds her as much in beauty as the first of May doth the last of December. But I hope you have no intent to turn husband, have you?
Claudio I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.
Benedick Is’t come to this? In faith, hath not the world one man, but he will wear his cap with suspicion? Shall I never see a bachelor of three score again? Go to, i’faith, and thou wilt needs thrust thy neck into a yoke, wear the print of it, and sigh away Sundays. Look, Don Pedro is returned to seek you.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present Benedick’s attitude to women and marriage in Much Ado About Nothing?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents Benedick’s attitude to women and marriage in this conversation
• how Shakespeare presents Benedick’s attitude to women and marriage in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing
Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of *Much Ado About Nothing* and then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Leonato challenges Claudio to a duel in response to his shaming of Hero.

**LEONATO** Tush, tush, man, never fleer and jest at me, 
I speak not like a dotard, nor a fool, 
As under privilege of age to brag, 
What I have done, being young, or what would do, 
Were I not old: know, Claudio, to thy head, 
Thou hast so wronged mine innocent child and me, 
That I am forced to lay my reverence by, 
And with grey hairs and bruise of many days, 
Do challenge thee to trial of a man: 
I say thou hast belied mine innocent child. 
Thy slander hath gone through and through her heart, 
And she lies buried with her ancestors: 
Oh in a tomb where never scandal slept, 
Save this of hers, framed by thy villainy. 

**CLAUDIO** My villainy? 

**LEONATO** Thine, Claudio, thine I say. 

**DON PEDRO** You say not right, old man. 

**LEONATO** My lord, my lord, 
I’ll prove it on his body if he dare, 
Despite his nice fence, and his active practice, 
His May of youth, and bloom of lustihood. 

**CLAUDIO** Away, I will not have to do with you.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present conflict in *Much Ado About Nothing*?
Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents conflict in this conversation 
• how Shakespeare presents conflict in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 4 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Claudio has been reunited with Hero and Benedick and Beatrice discover they have been tricked into believing that each was in love with the other.

BENEDICK Soft and fair friar, which is Beatrice?
BEATRICE I answer to that name, what is your will?
BENEDICK Do not you love me?
BEATRICE Why no, no more than reason.
BENEDICK Why then your uncle, and the prince, and Claudio, have been deceived, they swore you did.
BEATRICE Do not you love me?
BENEDICK Troth no, no more than reason.
BEATRICE Why then my cousin, Margaret and Ursula are much deceived, for they did swear you did.
BENEDICK They swore that you were almost sick for me.
BEATRICE They swore that you were wellnigh dead for me.
BENEDICK ’Tis no such matter, then you do not love me?
BEATRICE No truly, but in friendly recompense.
LEONATO Come, cousin, I am sure you love the gentleman.
CLAUDIO And I’ll be sworn upon’t, that he loves her,
For here’s a paper written in his hand,
A halting sonnet of his own pure brain,
Fashioned to Beatrice.
HERO And here’s another,
Writ in my cousin’s hand, stol’n from her pocket,
Containing her affection unto Benedick.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick in this conversation
• how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick in the play as a whole.
**Much Ado About Nothing**

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

At this point in the play, Claudio has returned from war and seeks advice regarding love.

**CLAUDIO** My liege, your highness now may do me good.
**DON PEDRO** My love is thine to teach, teach it but how,
And thou shalt see how apt it is to learn
Any hard lesson that may do thee good.
**CLAUDIO** Hath Leonato any son, my lord?
**DON PEDRO** No child but Hero, she’s his only heir:
Dost thou affect her, Claudio?
**CLAUDIO** O my lord,
When you went onward on this ended action,
I looked upon her with a soldier’s eye,
That liked, but had a rougher task in hand,
Than to drive liking to the name of love;
But now I am returned, and that war-thoughts
Have left their places vacant, in their rooms
Come thronging soft and delicate desires,
All prompting me how fair young Hero is,
Saying I liked her ere I went to wars.
**DON PEDRO** Thou wilt be like a lover presently,
And tire the hearer with a book of words:
If thou dost love fair Hero, cherish it,
And I will break with her, and with her father,
And thou shalt have her. Wast not to this end,
That thou began’st to twist so fine a story?
**CLAUDIO** How sweetly you do minister to love,
That know love’s grief by his complexion!
But lest my liking might too sudden seem,
I would have salved it with a longer treatise.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present Claudio’s feelings for Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*?

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents Claudio’s feelings for Hero in this conversation
- how Shakespeare presents Claudio’s feelings for Hero in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Antonio is trying to console Leonato after the loss of his daughter’s reputation.

Enter LEONATO and his brother ANTONIO

ANTONIO If you go on thus, you will kill yourself, 
And ’tis not wisdom thus to second grief, 
Against yourself.

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 overwhelmed 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, 
And 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:

Starting with this speech, how does Shakespeare present Leonato’s feelings about his daughter in Much Ado About Nothing?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents Leonato’s feelings about his daughter in this speech
• how Shakespeare presents Leonato’s feelings about his daughter in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing
Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 1 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Beatrice is discussing her views on men and marriage.

LEONATO By my troth, niece, thou wilt 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 bearward, and lead his apes into hell.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present the character of Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing?
Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents the character of Beatrice in this conversation
• how Shakespeare presents the character of Beatrice in the play as a whole.
**Much Ado About Nothing**

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

At this point in the play, Don Pedro wishes to celebrate having matched Claudio and Hero by tricking Beatrice and Benedick.

**DON PEDRO** ...I will in the interim undertake one of Hercules' labours, which is, to bring Signor Benedick and the Lady Beatrice into a mountain of affection, th’one with th’other: I would fain have it a match, and I doubt not but to fashion it, if you three will but minister such assistance as I shall give you direction.

**LEONATO** My lord, I am for you, though it cost me ten nights' watchings.

**CLAUDIO** And I, my lord.

**DON PEDRO** And you too, gentle Hero?

**HERO** I will do any modest office, my lord, to help my cousin to a good husband.

**DON PEDRO** And Benedick is not the unhopefullest husband that I know: thus far can I praise him, he is of a noble strain, of approved valour, and confirmed honesty. I will teach you how to humour your cousin, that she shall fall in love with Benedick, and I, with your two helps, will so practise on Benedick, that in despite of his quick wit, and his queasy stomach, he shall fall in love with Beatrice: if we can do this, Cupid is no longer an archer, his glory shall be ours, for we are the only love-gods. Go in with me, and I will tell you my drift.

*Exeunt*

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present Don Pedro’s feelings and attitudes in *Much Ado About Nothing*?

Write about:
- how Shakespeare presents Don Pedro’s feelings and attitudes in this conversation
- how Shakespeare presents Don Pedro’s feelings and attitudes in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 5 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Dogberry and Verges come to inform Leonato of the arrests of Borachio and Conrade.

Enter LEONATO and DOGBERRY the Constable and VERGES the Headborough

LEONATO What would you with me, honest neighbour?

DOGBERRY Marry, sir, I would have some confidence with you, that
decorns you nearly.

LEONATO Brief I pray you, for you see it is a busy time with me.

DOGBERRY Marry this it is, sir.

VERGES Yes in truth it is, sir.

LEONATO What is it, my good friends?

DOGBERRY Goodman Verges, sir, speaks a little off the matter, an old
man, sir, and his wits are not so blunt, as God help I would desire
they were, but in faith honest, as the skin between his brows.

VERGES Yes I thank God, I am honest as any man living, that is an old
man, and no honester than I.

DOGBERRY Comparisons are odorous, palabras, neighbour Verges.

LEONATO Neighbours, you are tedious.

DOGBERRY It pleases your worship to say so, but we are the poor duke's
officers, but truly for mine own part, if I were as tedious as a king, I
could find in my heart to bestow it all of your worship.

LEONATO All thy tediousness on me, ah?

DOGBERRY Yea, and 'twere a thousand pound more than 'tis, for I hear as
good exclamation on your worship as of any man in the city, and
though I be but a poor man, I am glad to hear it.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare use humour in Much Ado About Nothing?
Write about:
• how Shakespeare uses humour in this conversation
• how Shakespeare uses humour in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing
Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Borachio proposes the villainous scheme against Claudio and Hero.

Enter DON JOHN and BORACHIO

DON JOHN It is so, the Count Claudio shall marry the daughter of Leonato.

BORACHIO Yea, my lord, but I can cross it.

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 anything.

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present the thoughts and feelings of Don John in Much Ado About Nothing?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents the thoughts and feelings of Don John in this conversation
• how Shakespeare presents the thoughts and feelings of Don John in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Beatrice and Benedick taunt each other.

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 turn-coat: 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.

How does Shakespeare present the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick in the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1?

Starting with this conversation, how does Shakespeare present the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing?

Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick in this conversation
• how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Beatrice and Benedick in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing
Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 3 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Benedick is in the garden talking to himself about how Claudio has changed because of his love for Hero.

BENEDICK
I do much wonder, that one man seeing how much another man is a fool, when he dedicates his behaviours to love, will after he hath laughed at such shallow follies in others, become the argument of his own scorn, by falling in love: and such a man is Claudio. I have known when there was no music with him but the drum and the fife, and now had he rather hear the tabor and the pipe: I have known when he would have walked ten mile afoot, to see a good armour, and now will he lie ten nights awake carving the fashion of a new doublet: he was wont to speak plain and to the purpose (like an honest man and a soldier) and now is he turned orthography, his words are a very fantastical banquet, just so many strange dishes: may I be so converted and see with these eyes? I cannot tell, I think not: I will not be sworn but love may transform me to an oyster, but I’ll take my oath on it, till he have made an oyster of me, he shall never make me such a fool: one woman is fair, yet I am well: another is wise, yet I am well: another virtuous, yet I am well: but till all graces be in one woman, one woman shall not come in my grace: rich she shall be, that’s certain: wise, or I’ll none: virtuous, or I’ll never cheapen her: fair, or I’ll never look on her: mild, or come not near me: noble, or not I for an angel: of good discourse, an excellent musician – and her hair shall be of what colour it please God. Hah! the prince and Monsieur Love, I will hide me in the arbour.

Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents Benedick’s attitudes towards love.
Write about:
• how Shakespeare presents Benedick’s attitudes towards love in this speech
• how Shakespeare presents Benedick’s attitudes towards love in the play as a whole.
Much Ado About Nothing
Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 1 of Much Ado About Nothing and then answer the question that follows.
At this point in the play, Beatrice has been discussing her views on men and marriage.

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.

LEONATO
Daughter, remember what I told you: if the prince do solicit you in that kind, you know your answer.

BEATRICE
The fault will be in the music, cousin, if you be not wooed in good time: if the prince be too important, tell him there is measure in everything, and so dance out the answer. For hear me, Hero, wooing, wedding, and repenting, is as a Scotch jig, a measure and a cinquepace: the first suit is hot and hasty like a Scotch jig (and full as fantastical), the wedding mannerly modest (as a measure) full of state and ancienry, and then comes Repentance, and with his bad legs falls into the cinquepace faster and faster, till he sink into his grave.

LEONATO
Cousin, you apprehend passing shrewdly.

BEATRICE
I have a good eye, uncle, I can see a church by daylight.

Starting with this extract, how does Shakespeare present Beatrice’s attitude towards romantic love in Much Ado About Nothing?
Write about:

• how Shakespeare presents Beatrice’s attitude towards romantic love in this extract
• how Shakespeare presents Beatrice’s attitude towards romantic love in the play as a whole.