

Romeo and Juliet

Read this extract from *Act 2 Scene 1* of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Romeo has run from Mercutio and Benvolio, who are trying to get him to come back.

	BENVOLIO And if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.
	MERCUTIO This cannot anger him: 'twould anger him To raise a spirit in his mistress' circle Of some strange nature, letting it there stand 5 Till she had laid it and conjured it down; That were some spite: my invocation Is fair and honest, and in his mistress' name I conjure only but to raise up him.
	BENVOLIO Come, he hath hid himself among these trees, 10 To be consorted with the humorous night: Blind is his love and best befits the dark.
	MERCUTIO If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark. Now will he sit under a medlar tree, And wish his mistress were that kind of fruit 15 As maids call medlars, when they laugh alone. Romeo, that she were, O, that she were An open et caetera, thou a poperin pear! Romeo, good night: I'll to my truckle-bed; This field-bed is too cold for me to sleep: Come, shall we go?

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Starting with this extract, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents Mercutio as a good friend.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Mercutio in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents Mercutio in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►