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OR

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: *The Sign of Four***

Read the following extract from Chapter 12 and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the novel Jonathan Small has been caught, and now Holmes is discussing the truth behind Sholto's murder.

"Have a cigar," said Holmes; "and you had best take a pull out of my flask, for you are very wet. How could you expect so small and weak a man as this black fellow to overpower Mr. Sholto and hold him while you were climbing the rope?"

"You seem to know as much about it as if you were there, sir. The truth is that I hoped to find the room clear. I knew the habits of the house pretty well, and it was the time when Mr. Sholto usually went down to his supper. I shall make no secret of the business. The best defence that I can make is just the simple truth. Now, if it had been the old major I would have swung for him with a light heart. I would have thought no more of knifing him than of smoking this cigar. But it's cursed hard that I should be lagged over this young Sholto, with whom I had no quarrel whatever."

"You are under the charge of Mr. Athelney Jones, of Scotland Yard. He is going to bring you up to my rooms, and I shall ask you for a true account of the matter. You must make a clean breast of it, for if you do I hope that I may be of use to you. I think I can prove that the poison acts so quickly that the man was dead before ever you reached the room."

Starting with this extract, how does Conan Doyle present attitudes towards justice? Write about:

- how Conan Doyle presents attitudes towards justice in this extract
- how Austen presents attitudes towards justice in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]

**END OF QUESTION**

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