

En

KEY STAGE

3

LEVELS

4–7

English test

# Shakespeare paper: *Much Ado About Nothing*

Please read this page, but do not open the booklet until your teacher tells you to start.

Write your name, the name of your school and the title of the play you have studied on the cover of your answer booklet.

This booklet contains one task which assesses your reading and understanding of *Much Ado About Nothing* and has 18 marks.

You have **45 minutes** to complete this task.

2008

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## **Much Ado About Nothing**

Act 4 Scene 1, lines 251 to 325

Act 5 Scene 4, lines 72 to 125

In the first extract, Benedick has to choose between his loyalty to Claudio and his love for Beatrice; in the second, Beatrice and Benedick do not want to admit that they love each other.

**How do these extracts explore the idea that loving someone is not easy?**

*Support your ideas by referring to both of the extracts which are printed on the following pages.*

**18 marks**

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## Much Ado About Nothing

### Act 4 Scene 1, lines 251 to 325

In this extract, Beatrice wants Benedick to stand up for Hero against Claudio.

BENEDICK	Lady Beatrice, have you wept all this while?	
BEATRICE	Yea, and I will weep a while longer.	
BENEDICK	I will not desire that.	
BEATRICE	You have no reason: I do it freely.	
BENEDICK	Surely I do believe your fair cousin is wronged.	255
BEATRICE	Ah, how much might the man deserve of me that would right her!	
BENEDICK	Is there any way to show such friendship?	
BEATRICE	A very even way, but no such friend.	
BENEDICK	May a man do it?	260
BEATRICE	It is a man's office, but not yours.	
BENEDICK	I do love nothing in the world so well as you. Is not that strange?	
BEATRICE	As strange as the thing I know not. It were as possible for me to say I loved nothing so well as you. But believe me not, and yet I lie not: I confess nothing, nor I deny nothing. I am sorry for my cousin.	265
BENEDICK	By my sword, Beatrice, thou lovest me.	
BEATRICE	Do not swear and eat it.	
BENEDICK	I will swear by it that you love me; and I will make him eat it that says I love not you.	270
BEATRICE	Will you not eat your word?	
BENEDICK	With no sauce that can be devised to it. I protest I love thee.	

**Turn over**

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BEATRICE	Why, then, God forgive me!	275
BENEDICK	What offence, sweet Beatrice?	
BEATRICE	You have stayed me in a happy hour. I was about to protest I loved <i>you</i> .	
BENEDICK	And do it with all thy heart.	
BEATRICE	I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest.	280
BENEDICK	Come, bid me do anything for thee.	
BEATRICE	Kill Claudio.	
BENEDICK	Ha! Not for the wide world.	
BEATRICE	You kill me to deny it. Farewell.	285
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.	290
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 market-place.	295 300
BENEDICK	Hear me, Beatrice –	
BEATRICE	Talk with a man out at a window! A proper saying!	
BENEDICK	Nay, but Beatrice –	

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BEATRICE	Sweet Hero! She is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone.	305
BENEDICK	Beat –	
BEATRICE	Princes and counties! Surely, a princely testimony, a goodly count, Count Comfekt – 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.	310 315
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.	320
BENEDICK	Enough: I am engaged. I will challenge him. I will kiss your hand, and so I leave you. By this hand, Claudio shall render me a dear account. As you hear of me, so think of me. Go, comfort your cousin: I must say she is dead; and so, farewell.	325

*Exeunt.*

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### Act 5 Scene 4, lines 72 to 125

**In this extract, Benedick and Beatrice will not admit that they love each other, until their love sonnets prove that they do.**

BENEDICK	Soft and fair, Friar. Which is Beatrice?
BEATRICE	<i>(Unmasking)</i> I answer to that name. What is your will?
BENEDICK	Do not you love me?
BEATRICE	Why no – no more than reason.

**Turn over**

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BENEDICK	Why, then your uncle and the Prince and Claudio Have been deceived. They swore you did.	75
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.	80
BEATRICE	They swore that you were well-nigh 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.	85
HERO	And here's another, Writ in my cousin's hand, stolen from her pocket, Containing her affection unto Benedick.	90
BENEDICK	A miracle! Here's our own hands against our hearts. Come, I will have thee: but, by this light, I take thee for pity.	
BEATRICE	I would not deny you; but, by this good day, I yield upon great persuasion – and partly to save your life, for I was told you were in a consumption.	95
BENEDICK	Peace! I will stop your mouth. ( <i>Kissing her</i> )	
DON PEDRO	How dost thou, Benedick the married man?	

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BENEDICK	I'll tell thee what, Prince. A college of wit-crackers cannot flout me out of my humour. Dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? No: if a man will be beaten with brains, 'a shall wear nothing handsome about him. In brief, since I do purpose to marry, I will think nothing to any purpose that the world can say against it. And therefore never flout at me for what I have said against it – for man is a giddy thing, and this is my conclusion. For thy part, Claudio, I did think to have beaten thee: but in that thou art like to be my kinsman, live unbruised, and love my cousin.	100        105
CLAUDIO	I had well hoped, thou wouldst have denied Beatrice, that I might have cudgelled thee out of thy single life, to make thee a double-dealer – which out of question thou wilt be, if my cousin do not look exceeding narrowly to thee.	110
BENEDICK	Come, come, we are friends. Let's have a dance ere we are married, that we may lighten our own hearts and our wives' heels.	115
LEONATO	We'll have dancing afterward.	
BENEDICK	First, of my word! Therefore play, music. Prince, thou art sad: get thee a wife, get thee a wife! There is no staff more reverend than one tipped with horn.	120
<i>Enter a MESSENGER.</i>		
MESSENGER	My lord, your brother John is ta'en in flight, And brought with armed men back to Messina.	
BENEDICK	Think not on him till tomorrow. I'll devise thee brave punishments for him. Strike up, pipers!	125

*Dance.*

*Exeunt.*

## END OF TEST

