

English test

En

KEY STAGE

3

LEVELS

4–7

2005

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.

Much Ado About Nothing

Act 1 Scene 1, lines 119 to 182

Act 2 Scene 3, lines 181 to 213

What do you learn about Benedick's attitudes to love and marriage in these extracts?

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

18 marks

Much Ado About Nothing

Act 1 Scene 1, lines 119 to 182

In this extract, Claudio tells Benedick that he loves Hero, and then Benedick tells Don Pedro.

CLAUDIO	Benedick, didst thou note the daughter of Signor Leonato?	
BENEDICK	I noted her not, but I looked on her.	120
CLAUDIO	Is she not a modest young lady?	
BENEDICK	Do you question me as an honest man should do, for my simple true judgement? Or would you have me speak after my custom, as being a professed tyrant to their sex?	
CLAUDIO	No, I pray thee speak in sober judgement.	125
BENEDICK	Why i'faith, methinks she's too low for a high praise, too brown for a fair praise, and too little for a great praise. Only this commendation I can afford her, that were she other than she is, she were unhandsome, and being no other, but as she is – I do not like her.	130
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 hare-finder, and Vulcan a rare carpenter? Come, in what key shall a man take you, to go in the song?	135
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?	140
CLAUDIO	I would scarce trust myself, though I had sworn the contrary, if Hero would be my wife.	145

Turn over

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.	150
<i>Enter DON PEDRO</i>		
DON PEDRO	What secret hath held you here, that you followed not to Leonato's?	
BENEDICK	I would your grace would constrain me to tell.	
DON PEDRO	I charge thee on thy allegiance.	
BENEDICK	You hear, Count Claudio, I can be secret as a dumb man – I would have you think so. But on my allegiance (mark you this, on my allegiance) he is in love. With who? Now that is your grace's part: mark how short his answer is. With Hero, Leonato's short daughter.	155
CLAUDIO	If this were so, so were it uttered.	
BENEDICK	Like the old tale, my lord: 'It is not so, nor 'twas not so, but indeed, God forbid it should be so.'	160
CLAUDIO	If my passion change not shortly, God forbid it should be otherwise.	
DON PEDRO	Amen, if you love her, for the lady is very well worthy.	
CLAUDIO	You speak this to fetch me in, my lord.	165
DON PEDRO	By my troth, I speak my thought.	
CLAUDIO	And in faith, my lord, I spoke mine.	
BENEDICK	And by my two faiths and troths, my lord, I spoke mine.	
CLAUDIO	That I love her, I feel.	
DON PEDRO	That she is worthy, I know.	170
BENEDICK	That I neither feel how she should be loved, nor know how she should be worthy, is the opinion that fire cannot melt out of me: I will die in it at the stake.	
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.	175

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 baldrick, 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. 180

Act 2 Scene 3, lines 181 to 213

In this extract, Benedick is convinced that Beatrice loves him.

BENEDICK 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. 185
190
195
200

Enter BEATRICE

BEATRICE Against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner.

BENEDICK Fair Beatrice, I thank you for your pains.

BEATRICE I took no more pains for those thanks, than you took pains to thank me, if it had been painful I would not have come.

BENEDICK You take pleasure then in the message. 205

Turn over

BEATRICE Yea, just so much as you may take upon a knife's point, and
choke a daw withal: you have no stomach, signor, fare you well. *Exit*

BENEDICK Ha, against my will I am sent to bid you come in to dinner:
there's a double meaning in that: I took no more pains for those
thanks than you take pains to thank me: that's as much as to say, any 210
pains that I take for you is as easy as thanks: if I do not take pity of
her I am a villain, if I do not love her I am a Jew, I will go get her
picture. *Exit*

END OF TEST

