



Rapid **Revision**

Cards

Romeo and Juliet

AQA GCSE English Literature



York Notes Rapid Revision

Romeo and Juliet

AQA GCSE English Literature
Revision Cards

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How to use your revision cards

These cards will make revising quick, easy and fun!

Boost your revision even further by organising your cards. Here's how:

1. Find the **three sorting cards** at the front of the box: **'Needs more work'**, **'Getting there'**, **'Sorted!'**.
2. Now read each card from **'Plot and structure'** through to **'Language'**. You might want to work through them **all in one go**, or take **one section at a time**.
3. **Read the text** on the first side of the card and **answer** the questions. Think carefully before you turn over.
4. If you got the answers **right** or **mostly right**, move the card to a new pile called **'Getting there'**.
5. If you got the answer **wrong** or **don't feel confident** about it, move the card to a pile called **'Needs more work'**.
6. Remember to use the **extra help** on the back of the card, i.e. **learn** the key quotations and **think** about how you could use them in **the exam**.
7. **Focus** on the cards in the **'Needs more work'** pile. When you feel more confident, move them to the **'Getting there'** pile.
8. Next, read over all the cards in the **'Getting there'** pile to make sure you still know your stuff! If you do, move the cards to a new pile called **'Sorted!'**.
9. If you don't, move them back to **'Needs more work'** and try again.
10. **The day before your exam**, read over **all the cards** for perfect preparation!

Group revision game

Play this revision game with a friend or in a small group.

1. Remove the exam practice and last-minute revision cards from the pack and shuffle the remainder (about 32 cards).
2. Deal the cards so that each player has approximately the same number (for two people it will be about 16 cards each, for a group of five players, six cards each or so).
3. Player A chooses a card from their set, keeping the contents hidden from the others.
4. They read out either a bullet point of information (e.g. from 'What happens?' or 'What do we learn about X?') or a key quotation, then they ask a question such as 'When in the play did this happen?', 'Who is this describing?', 'Who said this?' or 'What theme does this relate to?'. If the card they choose to use is a 'Quick quiz' card, they can ask one of the numbered questions.
5. Player B has to answer the question. If they get it right, then Player A passes the card to them. If they get it wrong, Player A gets to keep the card.
6. It is now Player B's turn to ask Player C a question based on the information on one of their own cards. The game continues, rotating around the group.

The winner is either the person who collects all the cards (very difficult!) or whoever has the most cards in their hands after a set time, such as 15 or 20 minutes.

How to use your exam practice cards

The exam practice cards show you:

- What an AQA exam question will look like
- What you need to do to get a good mark (the Assessment Objectives)
- How to decode the question and plan your answer
- What a Grade 5 answer looks like
- What a Grade 7+ answer looks like

Plus, you'll find lots of character and theme practice questions to boost your revision!

How can you use these cards to revise?

1. Read through **each card** and make sure you **understand** what it's telling you.
2. Complete the **'Identify'** and **'Think'** tasks to test your skills.
3. Read through the **Practice questions** and think of at least **five key points** for each. Or, on a separate piece of paper or in your exercise book, **make a plan** for each one.
4. Check your planned points against the **answers**.
5. Now get writing! On a separate piece of paper, or in your exercise book, **write a response** for each question. You could complete **one a week** leading up to your exam.
6. Check your answers against the **Assessment Objectives** and the **Grade 5** and **Grade 7+** extracts.
7. How did you do? Can you find **ways to improve**? If so, make notes in the margin or rewrite your answers.
8. Remember: **practice makes perfect**! Make some time the **week before your exam** to practise your **writing skills** as well as revising key quotations and ideas.

Good luck!

How to use your last-minute revision cards

Short on time and need a bit of **last-minute revision** before your exam? Here are some tips for using these handy cards.

1. If you have **ONE HOUR** ...

- Pick an **ideas map** card.
- What other **ideas**, **links** and **quotations** could you add to the map on side 1?
- Turn over to side 2. Using the ideas given, create **your own** visual revision aid on **one** of the **given subjects**.
- Complete the **'Think'** task below by planning **five to seven paragraphs**, either for the ideas map on side 1 or the visual revision aid you have made yourself.

2. If you have **30 MINUTES** ...

- Pick an **ideas map** card.
- Create your own ideas map for a different part of the plot, or a new setting, character or theme.
- Include as many **quotations** as you can.

3. If you have **10 MINUTES** ...

- Pick a **key quotations** card at random.
- Turn to **side 2**.
- Test yourself by **filling the gaps** in each quotation.

4. If you only have **FIVE MINUTES** ...

- Pick a **key quotations** card.
- Read the quotations on **side 1**.
- Choose the correct word to **fill the gaps** in each quotation.

Remember – whether you have five minutes or five hours, the extra bits of revision you do can make a **BIG** difference!

PLOT AND STRUCTURE

Prologue and Act I Scene 1

1

What happens?

- **Prologue:** We learn of the **violent feud** between two **Verona** families – the **Capulets** and **Montagues**.
- We are told that the **children** of these families will **fall in love** and that the quarrel will end with their **deaths**.
- **Scene 1:** We see **servants** of both households **taunting** each other in the street.
- We are introduced to **Tybalt**, a hot-blooded Capulet, and **Benvolio**, a peacekeeping Montague.
- A **fight** takes place that ends with the arrival of the **Prince**.
- The Prince decrees that there will be **serious consequences** if the violence continues.
- Benvolio finds **Romeo**, who seems **sensitive** and **sad**.
- Romeo says he is **in love** with a Capulet woman called **Rosaline**, who does not return his love.



Q Three key questions

1. Which two families are we introduced to?
2. What do we learn about these families and how is this evident in Scene 1?
3. How does the Prologue relate to the rest of the play?

Answers

1. We are introduced to the two key families: the Capulets and the Montagues.
2. We learn that they are rivals and have a long-standing family feud. In Scene 1 we witness a violent conflict between the younger members of the warring families.
3. The Prologue foreshadows the events of the play in foretelling the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Foreshadowing: **'From forth the fatal loins of these two foes/A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life'** (Prologue.5–6)
2. Violence: **'What, drawn and talk of peace? I hate the word,/As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee'** (Tybalt) (I.1.64–5)
3. The language of opposites: **'O brawling love, O loving hate'** (Romeo) (I.1.170)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

Shakespeare uses the dramatic technique of foreshadowing

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Act I Scenes 2-5

2

What happens?

- **Scene 2:** Paris asks for Juliet's hand in **marriage**. Capulet feels Juliet is **too young**, but will **consent** with her agreement.
- **Capulet** invites **Paris** to a **feast** and sends out a **servant** with invitations.
- **Benvolio** and **Romeo** meet the servant and learn about the feast.
- **Scene 3:** **Juliet's mother** talks to her about marriage.
- **Scene 4:** **Benvolio**, **Mercutio** and **Romeo** (reluctantly) head to the Capulet feast wearing **masks**.
- Mercutio paints a picture of **love as a dream** devised by **Queen Mab**.
- **Scene 5:** At the feast, Romeo sees Juliet for the **first time**.
- **Tybalt** recognises Romeo and is **enraged** that he is there.
- Romeo and Juliet **meet** and **fall in love**, discovering at the end of the night they are from the two **rival families**.



Q Three key questions

1. How does Capulet feel about Juliet getting married?
2. How do the young Montagues find out about the feast?
3. How do Romeo and Juliet react to one another and what do they learn later?

A Answers

1. Capulet is worried that his daughter is too young. He wants her to approve of the match with Paris, so holds a feast where the two can meet.
2. The young Montagues find out about the feast from a servant and vow to attend for some fun, though Romeo is unhappy at the idea.
3. Romeo and Juliet are immediately attracted to each other, but are disappointed when they discover they are from rival families.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Marriage: **'Let two more summers wither in their pride,/Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.'**
(Capulet) (1.2.10–11)
2. Fate: **'Some consequence yet hanging in the stars/
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date/With this night's revels'** (Romeo) (1.4.107–9)
3. Instant attraction: **'Did my heart love till now?
forswear it, sight!/For I ne'er saw true beauty till
this night'** (Romeo) (1.5.51–2)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

Shakespeare introduces the theme of fate

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Act II Scenes 1 and 2

What happens?

- **Scene 1:** We see **Benvolio** and **Mercutio** searching for **Romeo** after the feast.
- We learn that **Benvolio** is **concerned** for his friend, whilst **Mercutio** **mocks** his lovesick nature. They do not realise he is with Juliet.
- **Scene 2:** Romeo climbs the wall into the **Capulet orchard** and sees Juliet at her window.
- He **overhears** her talking about her feelings for him and calls to her.
- Juliet is **embarrassed** at being overheard, but concerned her family will find him there and his life will be in danger.
- **Romeo** declares his **feelings of love** for Juliet.
- **Juliet** in turn **declares** her love.
- Juliet asks Romeo to arrange for them to be **married** if his feelings towards her are true.



Q Three key questions

1. How has Romeo changed since the start of the play?
2. How does Romeo put himself in danger in Scene 2?
3. What do Romeo and Juliet decide to do?

A Answers

1. Romeo is in love, but with Juliet now and not Rosaline.
2. He puts himself in danger by climbing into the Capulet orchard that same night after the feast.
3. The two young people exchange a vow of love and decide to marry without their parents' permission.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Imagery: **'It is the east, and Juliet is the sun'** (Romeo) (II.2.3)
2. The meaning of the family feud: **'Tis but thy name that is my enemy; Thou art thyself, though not a Montague'** (Juliet) (II.2.38–9)
3. Foreshadowing: **'It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden'** (Juliet) (II.2.118)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

Shakespeare foreshadows the dangers that the young couple will face

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Act II Scenes 3–6

What happens?

- **Scene 3:** Romeo asks **Friar Lawrence** to perform a **wedding ceremony**.
- The Friar is concerned at **how quickly** Romeo has decided to marry Juliet, but feels the **marriage may help to end** the families' feud.
- **Scene 4:** Benvolio learns that **Tybalt** has sent a challenge to Romeo's house.
- **Romeo** arrives but is **intercepted by the Nurse**. She is waiting to take news to Juliet and also wants reassurance of Romeo's love.
- Romeo asks the Nurse to make sure Juliet can come that afternoon to **Friar Lawrence's cell** to be married.
- **Scene 5:** Juliet **waits impatiently** for the Nurse to bring her news.
- The Nurse returns and tells Juliet Romeo has **kept his promise**.
- **Scene 6:** Romeo and the Friar **await Juliet's arrival**.
- The **Friar leads the young couple** away to be married.



Q Three key questions

1. Which two characters support Romeo and Juliet's secret love?
2. What does Romeo need to reassure the Nurse about?
3. Why do Romeo and Juliet meet at Friar Lawrence's cell?

Answers

1. The Nurse and Friar Lawrence become heavily involved in Romeo and Juliet's secret love.
2. Romeo reassures the Nurse of his genuine love and commitment to Juliet.
3. The lovers meet at Friar Lawrence's cell to be married.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Romeo's plan: **'my heart's dear love is set/On the fair daughter of rich Capulet'** (II.3.57–8)
2. Friar Lawrence's hope: **'For this alliance may so happy prove/To turn your households' rancour to pure love'** (II.3.90–2)
3. The Nurse's comic warning: **'if ye should lead her in a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behaviour'** (II.4.151–2)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

Shakespeare shows the strength of Romeo's feeling, and his determination to be with Juliet

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Act III Scenes 1 and 2

5

What happens?

- **Scene 1: Benvolio** is anxious to keep the Montagues **out of trouble**.
- **Tybalt** arrives, looking for Romeo.
- Romeo **refuses to fight**. No one knows he has just **married** Juliet, a Capulet.
- **Mercutio** cannot understand why Romeo does not rise to the challenge and **fights Tybalt** himself, having called him a '**rat-catcher**'.
- Tybalt stabs Mercutio, as Romeo tries to separate them. **Mercutio dies**.
- Romeo fights Tybalt to **avenge his friend**. **Tybalt** is injured and **dies**. **Romeo flees**.
- The **Prince** arrives and banishes Romeo.
- **Scene 2:** The Nurse brings news of **Tybalt's death** to Juliet. She reveals that **Romeo** has been **banished** from Verona.
- **Juliet** is **distraught** at the news of Tybalt's death and of her husband's banishment.
- The Nurse promises to **find Romeo** and bring him to Juliet.



Q Three key questions

1. How does the atmosphere change at the start of Act III?
2. Which characters die in these scenes and what happens to Romeo?
3. What part does the Nurse play in advancing the plot in Scene 2?

Answers

1. There is a swift change of atmosphere from the romance of the previous scene. A violent fight erupts between the Capulets and Montagues.
2. Both Mercutio and Tybalt lose their lives in the fight. Romeo is banished.
3. The Nurse informs Juliet that Romeo has been banished. She also says she will seek out Romeo and bring him to his new wife.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Romeo as peacemaker: **'I do protest I never injured thee,/But love thee better than thou canst devise'** (III.1.65–6)
2. Violent conflict: **'A plague a'both your houses!'** (Mercutio) (III.1.102)
3. Romeo's reaction: **'O, I am fortune's fool'** (III.1.132)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

A key turning point in the plot occurs when Romeo kills Tybalt.
He realises what he has done

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Act III Scenes 3-5

6

What happens?

- **Scene 3:** The Friar gives Romeo the news of his **banishment**.
- The Nurse arrives and they arrange for **Romeo to spend a night with Juliet**.
- The Friar tells **Romeo to go to Mantua** the next day and await news.
- **Scene 4:** Capulet decides to arrange **Juliet's marriage to Paris** sooner than planned to ease her grief.
- **Scene 5:** Romeo and Juliet **awaken** from a night together.
- They have to **part when Lady Capulet comes** to see Juliet.
- Lady Capulet tells Juliet about the **wedding with Paris**. Juliet is devastated and refuses to co-operate.
- **Lord Capulet arrives** and is enraged with Juliet.
- Juliet seeks comfort from the **Nurse who advises her to forget Romeo**.
- **Juliet pretends** she needs to confess and goes to see the Friar.

Q Three key questions

1. What does the Friar tell Romeo to do?
2. What does the Nurse help to arrange?
3. Why does Capulet arrange the wedding between Juliet and Paris?

Answers

1. The Friar sends Romeo to Mantua and asks him to await news. He will work out a plan and let Romeo know what to do.
2. The Nurse helps to arrange a secret night together for Romeo and Juliet.
3. Capulet makes a sudden decision that his daughter should marry Paris, because he thinks she is grieving for her cousin Tybalt.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Fate: **'I have an ill-divining soul!/Methinks I see thee now, thou art so low,/As one dead in the bottom of a tomb'** (III.5.54–6)
2. Patriarchal society: **'disobedient wretch!/I tell thee what: get thee to church a'Thursday,/Or never after look me in the face'** (III.5.160–2)
3. Lady Capulet fails to support her daughter: **'Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word./Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee.'** (III.5.202–3)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

We see the influence of the patriarchal society when Capulet says

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Act IV

7

What happens?

- **Scene 1:** Paris discusses his **proposed marriage** to Juliet with the Friar.
- **Juliet arrives and Paris leaves.** Juliet threatens to take her own life, but the **Friar has a plan**.
- He gives her a **potion to fake her death** and writes a letter to Romeo with instructions.
- **Scene 2:** Juliet **agrees to marry** Paris.
- Capulet is delighted and brings the **wedding** forward to **Wednesday**.
- **Scene 3:** On the eve of her wedding Juliet describes her fears of waking in the tomb alone. She **drinks the potion** and falls unconscious.
- **Scene 4:** On the wedding day, Paris arrives and the **Nurse is sent to wake** Juliet.
- **Scene 5:** The Nurse discovers Juliet's '**dead**' body.
- The Capulets are overcome with grief. The wedding becomes a **funeral**.



Q Three key questions

1. What is the Friar's plan?
2. Who does Juliet deceive?
3. What happens on the morning of the proposed wedding between Juliet and Paris?

Answers

1. The Friar proposes an elaborate plan for Juliet to fake her own death to avoid marriage to Paris and be reunited with Romeo.
2. Juliet deceives her parents and the Nurse by seemingly agreeing to the wedding.
3. Juliet is discovered, apparently dead, on the morning of her wedding.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Juliet's character: **'O bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,/From off the battlements of any tower'**
(IV.1.77–8)
2. The Friar's plan: **'Take thou this vial, being then in bed,/And this distilling liquor drink thou off'**
(IV.1.93–4)
3. Fate: **'The heavens do low'r upon you for some ill;/ Move them no more by crossing their high will'**
(Friar Lawrence) (IV.5.94–5)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

Juliet is a strong character. She says she would rather

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Act V

What happens?

- **Scene 1:** **Balthasar** arrives in **Mantua** with news of Juliet's death.
- **Romeo** immediately sets off for Verona, stopping only to buy a **deadly poison**.
- **Scene 2:** **Friar John** returns **Friar Lawrence's letter**, explaining that he **could not deliver** it after being turned away from the town for fear of the plague.
- Friar Lawrence decides to go to **Juliet's tomb**.
- **Scene 3:** **Paris** visits Juliet's tomb and is met by Romeo.
- Paris and Romeo fight – **Paris is killed**.
- **Romeo** thinks Juliet is dead and **drinks the poison**.
- **Friar Lawrence** arrives and meets **Balthasar**, who tells him that Romeo is in the tomb.
- **Juliet begins to wake** and, seeing Romeo dead, refuses to leave with the Friar.
- The Friar flees and **Juliet uses Romeo's dagger** to take her own life.
- The **Montagues and Capulets** are reconciled in their **shared grief**.

Q Three key questions

1. How does Romeo find out about Juliet's 'death'?
2. What happens to the letter Friar Lawrence dispatched to Romeo?
3. How do Romeo and Juliet die?

Answers

1. Romeo learns of Juliet's 'death' from Balthasar before the Friar's letter arrives.
2. Friar John is unable to deliver Friar Lawrence's letter because the town's searchers suspect they are infected with the plague.
3. Romeo drinks poison. When Juliet awakes from her fake death she finds him at her side. There is no poison left, so she takes her own life with Romeo's dagger.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Fate: **'I defy you, stars!'** (Romeo) (V.1.24)
2. Love and death: **'Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you/The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss'** (Romeo) (V.3.112–14)
3. Oxymoron: **'O happy dagger,/This is thy sheath; there rust and let me die'** (Juliet) (V.3.169–70)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

The play comes full circle and we are reminded of Romeo in Act I when Juliet uses oxymoron

PLOT AND STRUCTURE

Form and structure

9

How does Shakespeare use form and structure in the play?

- The structure of Shakespeare's play in **five acts** is based on classical structures most closely associated with the **Ancient Greeks and Romans**. It is made up of:
 - **Exposition** (an initial incident): the fight in Act I
 - **Rising action** (growth in tension): the meeting of the two lovers and their secret wedding
 - **Climax** (the high point of the action): the deaths of Mercutio and Tybalt
 - **Falling action** (where the plot unravels): Juliet's desperate situation in taking the potion
 - **Denouement** (the resolution): the deaths of the two lovers and the reconciliation of their families
- Shakespeare also borrows from **classical tragedy** in writing a plot **concerning loss, death and fate** and showing a **conflict between important families**.
- The **time-frame** of the play is **short and fast**, concentrating all the action into less than one week.

Q Three key questions

1. How many acts is *Romeo and Juliet* made up of?
2. Which elements of a classical tragedy does the play borrow?
3. How many days does the play span?

A Answers

1. *Romeo and Juliet* is a play made up of five acts.
2. The play borrows some elements of a classical tragedy by using high-status families, and themes of loss, death and fate.
3. The time-frame of the play covers a few days from the feast on Sunday to the death of the lovers on Thursday evening.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Setting the scene: **'The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love ... Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage'** (Prologue.9–12)
2. Fast pace of the relationship: **'It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden,/Too like the lightning'** (Juliet) (II.2.118–20)
3. The Friar's warning: **'Wisely and slow, they stumble that run fast'** (II.3.94)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

The pace of *Romeo and Juliet*'s relationship is reflected by

PLOT AND STRUCTURE Quick test

Quick quiz

1. Who tries to stop the fighting in Act I Scene 1?
2. Who visits Capulet to ask for his daughter's hand in marriage?
3. Which member of the Capulet household recognises Romeo's voice at the feast?
4. When Romeo sees Juliet at her window, what does he compare her to?
5. Where should Juliet go to for the secret wedding?
6. Who calls Tybalt a 'rat-catcher'?
7. What curse does Mercutio make as he dies from his wounds?
8. Which city does Romeo go to after he is banished and has to leave Juliet?
9. Which of the pair dies first – Romeo or Juliet?
10. What are the five stages in the play's structure?

Think more deeply

Answer these questions. For each question try to think of two or three points and use at least one quotation from this section.

1. How does Shakespeare present the relationship between Capulet and his daughter?
2. What role does fate play in the young lovers' deaths?

A Answers Quick quiz

1. Benvolio.
2. Paris.
3. Tybalt.
4. The sun.
5. Friar Lawrence's cell.
6. Mercutio.
7. 'A plague a'both your houses!'
8. Mantua.
9. Romeo.
10. Exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and denouement.

A Answers Think more deeply**Question 1:**

- Capulet cares about Juliet – he wants her to like Paris.
- He has control over his daughter and becomes angry at her disobedience ('disobedient wretch').
- He is so distressed by his daughter's untimely death that he is willing to reconcile his differences with Montague.

Question 2:

- They meet by chance at the Capulet ball ('I ne'er saw true beauty till this night').
- Juliet seems to foresee Romeo's death.
- The letter destined for Romeo is not delivered.

SETTING AND CONTEXT Elizabethan society

What was Elizabethan society like?

- **Elizabeth I** was on the throne from 1558 to 1603. Unusually, she never married.
- Shakespeare performed his work at the **royal court**.
- This time period became known as the **English Renaissance** and resulted in a flourishing world of theatre and plays with new ideas and thinking.
- **Young playwrights** including Shakespeare, Ben Jonson and Christopher Marlowe brought their talents to London.
- There were many **playhouses** and companies of actors in London – theatre-going was popular.
- Acting companies were all **male**, with women's parts being taken by boys.
- **Religion** governed much of daily life and attending **church** every Sunday was compulsory.
- People believed that the **monarch** was **God's representative** on Earth.
- People were afraid of **witchcraft** and **magic**.
- Playwrights used **beliefs** and **superstitions** to **excite the audience** with ghosts, magic and fairies.



Three key questions

1. What was the Elizabethan period?
2. What French word meaning 'rebirth' was linked to this period and why?
3. What part did religion and superstition play in people's lives?