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.
**Much Ado About Nothing**

Act 3 Scene 2, lines 59 to 100  
Act 4 Scene 1, lines 80 to 138

In these extracts the male characters talk about Hero.

**Explain the different attitudes the men show towards Hero in these extracts.**

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

18 marks


Enter DON JOHN the Bastard

DON JOHN My lord and brother, God save you.

DON PEDRO Good den, brother.

DON JOHN If your leisure served, I would speak with you.

DON PEDRO In private?

DON JOHN If it please you, yet Count Claudio may hear, for what I would speak of, concerns him.

DON PEDRO What’s the matter?

DON JOHN Means your lordship to be married tomorrow?

DON PEDRO You know he does.

DON JOHN You know he does.

DON PEDRO What’s the matter?

DON JOHN I know not that, when he knows what I know.

CLAUDIO If there be any impediment, I pray you discover it.

DON JOHN You may think I love you not, let that appear hereafter, and aim better at me by that I now will manifest, for my brother (I think he holds you well, and in dearness of heart) hath holp to effect your ensuing marriage: surely suit ill-spent, and labour ill-bestowed.

DON PEDRO Why what’s the matter?

DON JOHN I came hither to tell you, and circumstances shortened (for she has been too long a-talking of), the lady is disloyal.

CLAUDIO Who Hero?

DON JOHN Even she, Leonato’s Hero, your Hero, every man’s Hero.

CLAUDIO Disloyal?
DON JOHN  The word is too good to paint out her wickedness, I could
say she were worse, think you of a worse title, and I will fit her to it:
wonder not till further warrant: go but with me tonight, you shall see
her chamber window entered, even the night before her wedding
day: if you love her, then tomorrow wed her: but it would better fit
your honour to change your mind.

CLAUDIO  May this be so?

DON PEDRO  I will not think it.

DON JOHN  If you dare not trust that you see, confess not that you know:
if you will follow me, I will show you enough: and when you have
seen more, and heard more, proceed accordingly.

CLAUDIO  If I see anything tonight, why I should not marry her tomar-
row in the congregation, where I should wed, there will I shame her.

DON PEDRO  And as I wooed for thee to obtain her, I will join with thee,
to disgrace her.

DON JOHN  I will disparage her no farther, till you are my witnesses: bear
it coldly but till midnight, and let the issue show itself.

DON PEDRO  Oh day untowardly turned!

CLAUDIO  Oh mischief strangely thwarting!

DON JOHN  Oh plague right well prevented! So will you say, when you
have seen the sequel.

Exeunt

Act 4 Scene 1, lines 80 to 138

In this extract, Don Pedro and Don John support Claudio in his accusation against Hero, and
Leonato believes them.

HERO  I talked with no man at that hour, my lord.

DON PEDRO  Why then are you no maiden. Leonato,
I am sorry you must hear: upon mine honour,
Myself, my brother, and this grievèd count
Did see her, hear her, at that hour last night,
Talk with a ruffian at her chamber window,
Who hath indeed most like a liberal villain,
Confessed the vile encounters they have had
A thousand times in secret.

DON JOHN Fie, fie, they are
Not to be named my lord, not to be spoke of,
There is not chastity enough in language,
Without offence to utter them: thus, pretty lady,
I am sorry for thy much misgovernment.

CLAUDIO Oh Hero! What a hero hadst thou been,
If half thy outward graces had been placed
About thy thoughts and counsels of thy heart?
But fare thee well, most foul, most fair, farewell
Thou pure impiety, and impious purity,
For thee I'll lock up all the gates of love,
And on my eyelids shall conjecture hang,
To turn all beauty into thoughts of harm,
And never shall it more be gracious.

LEONATO Hath no man's dagger here a point for me?

[Hero faints]

BEATRICE Why how now, cousin, wherefore sink you down?

DON JOHN Come let us go: these things come thus to light,
Smother her spirits up.

[Exeunt Don Pedro, Don John and Claudio]

BENEDICK How doth the lady?

BEATRICE Dead I think, help, uncle!
Hero, why Hero: uncle: Signor Benedick: friar!

LEONATO Oh Fate! Take not away thy heavy hand,
Death is the fairest cover for her shame
That may be wished for.

BEATRICE How now, cousin Hero?

FRIAR FRANCIS Have comfort, lady.

LEONATO Dost thou look up?
FRIAR FRANCIS  Yea, wherefore should she not?

LEONATO  Wherefore? Why doth not every earthly thing
Cry shame upon her? Could she here deny
The story that is printed in her blood?
Do not live, Hero, do not ope thine eyes:
For did I think thou wouldst not quickly die,
Thought I thy spirits were stronger than thy shames,
Myself would on the rearward of reproaches
Strike at thy life. Grieved I, I had but one?
Chid I for that at frugal nature’s frame?
Oh one too much by thee! Why had I one?
Why ever wast thou lovely in my eyes?
Why had I not with charitable hand,
Took up a beggar’s issue at my gates,
Who smirched thus, and mired with infamy,
I might have said, no part of it is mine,
This shame derives itself from unknown loins:
But mine, and mine I loved, and mine I praised,
And mine that I was proud on, mine so much,
That I myself, was to myself not mine,
Valuing of her: why she, oh she is fallen
Into a pit of ink, that the wide sea
Hath drops too few to wash her clean again,
And salt too little, which may season give
To her foul tainted flesh.

BENEDICK  Sir, sir, be patient. For my part I am so attired in wonder, I
know not what to say.

END OF TEST