

Possible essay questions on Act 3 Scene 5

1. Imagine you are directing the scene for a class performance. What advice would you give the actor playing Juliet?
2. How does Shakespeare use language to show Lord Capulet's feelings in this scene?
3. What impression do the audience get of Juliet in this scene?
4. How are the themes of love and hate revealed in this scene?

Firstly underline the key words in each of the questions above and decide which of the four areas (character; language; themes; performance) each question comes under.

When you are writing an essay under timed conditions you need to think PEA – point; evidence; analysis.

Firstly think about the essay as having:

Introduction

Paragraph one

Paragraph two

Paragraph three

Paragraph four

Paragraph five

Conclusion

For each paragraph (except the introduction and conclusion) you will need to make a Point; find a suitable quotation (Evidence); and Analyse the quotation: in other words say what the quotation shows us.

The next thing to do is find yourself five suitable quotations: in the exam it is worth underlining or highlighting them so that you can go back to them more easily. Each quotation needs to address a slightly different point: there is no point, or time, repeating an idea a number of times using different quotations.

Make a note of the point that you will make in each paragraph. For example for essay question two your first point might be that Lord Capulet's questions and repetition to Lady Capulet show his anger and incomprehension that Juliet is not prepared to marry Paris.