

# English Literature Revision

## Shakespeare

BBC Bitesize – Much Ado About Nothing Guide

[Much Ado About Nothing - GCSE English Literature - BBC Bitesize](#)

BBC Bitesize Videos

Shakespeare – Much Ado About Nothing - Plot

[Much Ado About Nothing - plot - Shakespeare: Video playlist - BBC Bitesize](#)

Shakespeare – Much Ado About Nothing – Theme (Love)

[Much Ado About Nothing - theme of love - Shakespeare: Video playlist - BBC Bitesize](#)

Shakespeare – Much Ado About Nothing – Performance

[Much Ado About Nothing - casting and performance - Shakespeare: Video playlist - BBC Bitesize](#)

Sample Exam Question

[Much Ado About Nothing - Sample exam question - Sample exam question - AQA - GCSE English Literature Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#)

Like Videos? Mr Bruff – Much Ado About Nothing Analysis

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtgPWtJcO7Y&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBzVg\\_bi8z21is-x4ztSu5O](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtgPWtJcO7Y&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBzVg_bi8z21is-x4ztSu5O)

## Sample Exam Questions

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### **1** Benedick – Character Development

#### **Exam Question (AQA style)**

**Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Benedick as a character who changes during the play.**

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#### **Key Scene Focus**

- Act 1 Scene 1 – Benedick mocks love and marriage
  - Act 2 Scene 3 – Benedick is tricked into believing Beatrice loves him
  - Act 4 Scene 1 – Benedick challenges Claudio
  - Act 5 Scene 4 – Benedick admits love and agrees to marry
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#### **AQA Assessment Focus**

- **AO1:** Clear understanding of Benedick’s character and development
  - **AO2:** Analysis of Shakespeare’s language showing change (e.g. tone, imagery, contrast)
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#### **Revision Checklist**

- I can describe Benedick at the start of the play
  - I can explain how the gulling scene changes him
  - I can use at least two short quotations
  - I can explain Shakespeare’s methods (language or contrast)
  - I can link Benedick’s change to ideas about love or masculinity
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## 2 Beatrice – Strong Female Character

### Exam Question (AQA style)

Explore how Shakespeare presents Beatrice as a strong and outspoken character in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

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### Key Scene Focus

- Act 1 Scene 1 – Beatrice’s verbal sparring with Benedick
  - Act 2 Scene 1 – Beatrice’s views on marriage
  - Act 4 Scene 1 – Beatrice’s reaction to Hero’s shaming
  - Act 5 Scene 4 – Beatrice’s honesty about love
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### AQA Assessment Focus

- **AO1:** Secure knowledge of Beatrice’s role and behaviour
  - **AO2:** Analysis of language and dialogue showing strength and challenge to gender roles
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### Revision Checklist

- I can describe Beatrice’s personality
  - I can explain how her language shows confidence or intelligence
  - I can refer to at least one key scene
  - I can explain how she challenges expectations of women
  - I can link her role to Shakespeare’s ideas about gender
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### **3 Claudio – Love and Honour**

#### **Exam Question (AQA style)**

**Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Claudio's attitudes towards love and honour.**

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#### **Key Scene Focus**

- Act 1 Scene 1 – Claudio's romantic view of Hero
  - Act 2 Scene 1 – Claudio's jealousy and insecurity
  - Act 4 Scene 1 – Claudio publicly shames Hero
  - Act 5 Scene 1 – Claudio's response to Hero's "death"
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#### **AQA Assessment Focus**

- **AO1:** Understanding of Claudio's changing attitudes
  - **AO2:** Analysis of language that shows jealousy, pride or concern for reputation
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#### **Revision Checklist**

- I can describe Claudio's view of love at the start
  - I can explain how deception affects his behaviour
  - I can use a quote showing concern for honour
  - I can explain how language shows jealousy or pride
  - I can judge whether Shakespeare presents Claudio positively or negatively
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## Deception – Theme

### Exam Question (AQA style)

Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents deception in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

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### Key Scene Focus

- Act 2 Scene 3 – Benedick is tricked (comic deception)
  - Act 3 Scene 1 – Beatrice is tricked
  - Act 3 Scene 2 – Don John’s false accusations
  - Act 4 Scene 1 – Consequences of deception
  - Act 5 Scene 4 – Truth revealed
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### AQA Assessment Focus

- **AO1:** Understanding of different types of deception
  - **AO2:** Analysis of how Shakespeare contrasts comic and harmful deception
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### Revision Checklist

- I can explain at least two examples of deception
  - I can compare comic and serious deception
  - I can use short quotations
  - I can explain consequences of deception
  - I can link deception to misunderstandings in the play
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## 5 Honour and Reputation – Theme

### Exam Question (AQA style)

Explore how Shakespeare presents the importance of honour and reputation in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

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### Key Scene Focus

- Act 1 Scene 1 – Claudio and honour in love
  - Act 2 Scene 1 – Reputation and public image
  - Act 4 Scene 1 – Hero’s public shaming
  - Act 5 Scene 1 – Leonato’s reaction to shame
  - Act 5 Scene 4 – Restoration of honour
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### AQA Assessment Focus

- **AO1:** Understanding of honour and reputation as key ideas
  - **AO2:** Analysis of language showing shame, honour, and public judgement
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### Revision Checklist

- I can explain why reputation matters in the play
- I can refer to Hero’s treatment
- I can explain how male honour affects decisions
- I can analyse words linked to shame or honour
- I can link the theme to Shakespeare’s message