The Taming of the Shrew – William Shakespeare

Read the extract below and then answer the question.

Explore the significance of this extract in relation to the comedy of the play as a whole. Remember to include in your answer relevant analysis of Shakespeare’s dramatic methods. [25 marks]

In Baptista’s house

Enter Katherina, and Bianca with her hands tied

BIANCA Good sister, wrong me not, nor wrong yourself,
To make a bondmaid and a slave of me.
That I disdain.
But for these other gauds,
Unbind my hands, I’ll pull them off myself,
Yea, all my raiment, to my petticoat,
Or what you will command me will I do,
So well I know my duty to my elders.

KATHERINA Of all thy suitors here I charge thee tell
Whom thou lov’st best. See thou dissemble not.

BIANCA Believe me, sister, of all men alive I never yet beheld that special face
Which I could fancy more than any other.

KATHERINA Minion, thou liest. Is’t not Hortensio?

BIANCA If you affect him, sister, here I swear I’ll plead for you myself but you shall have him.

KATHERINA O then, belike, you fancy riches more. You will have Gremio to keep you fair.

BIANCA Is it for him you do envy me so? Nay then you jest, and now I well perceive
You have but jested with me all this while.

I prithee, sister Kate, untie my hands.

KATHERINA Strikes her If that be jest, then all the rest was so.

Enter Baptista

BAPTISTA Why, how now, dame, whence grows this insolence? Bianca, stand aside. Poor girl, she weeps. He unties her hands Go ply thy needle, meddle not with her. (to Katherina) For
shame, thou hilding of a devilish spirit, Why dost thou wrong her that did ne’er wrong thee? When did she cross thee with a bitter word?

**KATHERINA** Her silence flouts me, and I’ll be revenged. *She flies after Bianca*

**BAPTISTA** What, in my sight? Bianca, get thee in. *Exit Bianca*

**KATHERINA** What, will you not suffer me? Nay, now I see She is your treasure, she must have a husband. I must dance bare-foot on her wedding-day. And for your love to her lead apes in hell. Talk not to me, I will go sit and weep, Till I can find occasion of revenge. *Exit Katherina*

**BAPTISTA** Was ever gentleman thus grieved as I? But who comes here?

*Enter Gremio, with Lucentio, disguised as Cambio, in the habit of a mean man; Petruchio, with Hortensio, disguised as Licio; and Tranio, disguised as Lucentio, with his boy, Biondello, bearing a lute and books.*

**GREMIO** Good morrow, neighbour Baptista.

**BAPTISTA** Good morrow, neighbour Gremio. God save you, gentlemen.

**PETRUCHIO** And you, good sir. Pray have you not a daughter Called Katherina, fair and virtuous?

**BAPTISTA** I have a daughter, sir, called Katherina.

(Act 2, Scene 1)