One can **certainly** agree that Shylock’s treatment is cruel as he is repeatedly referred to as a dog. Indeed, Shylock, himself, speaks of himself in the same way (albeit in an ironical way). However, some may feel that cruelty is an ever-present aspect of comedic texts:

“Beware my **fangs!**

Here, the use of the noun “fangs” primarily highlights Shylock’s scorn and outrage. **Nevertheless**, it also alludes to his animalistic presentation; the zoomorphism suggests a vampiric nature. Of course, in the 1590s’ context of production, the somewhat racist audience would have been indoctrinated into a culture of anti-Semitism (Jewish people had been banned from England since 1290.) Therefore an audience may have enjoyed Shylock’s depiction. However, when one considers the surrounding form and structure, it could be argued that Shylock is being satirical and humane. Cohen supports this view when confidently suggesting that Shakespeare “humanises” his Jewish protagonist. Building on this, the exclamation mark could connote anger or it desperation. A post-Holocaust reading of this line may indeed find sympathy in Shylock’s isolated plight.

E: **IMMEDIATE** AO2 lang discussion - weighed **AGAINST** structure / form (or vice versa): this evaluating of ideas should then draw on (and **sharply evaluate**) AO3 critical opinions + AO3 links **BEFORE** then acknowledging AO4 facts to **EXTEND** or cement the arguments further.

This chronological, yet integrated approach (AO1 before AO2 before AO3 before AO4 – all in one paragraph)[[1]](#endnote-1) is best served by an essay title with a narrow focus. The wider text appreciation can then be met when making AO3 links.

With the A2 comparative essay, you could also make links between the two texts within any individual analytical section. However, this could potentially interfere with the cogency of your "AO1,2,3&4-ing" of the specific quotation in question. So I'd advocate not doing that until the 1st draft is complete.

1. Use footnotes to authenticate references or for supplementary information. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)