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***Romeo and Juliet***

Read this extract from *Act 2 Scene 1* of Romeo and Julietand then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Romeo is pledging his love to Juliet.

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| **ROMEO**Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swearThat tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops--**JULIET**O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,That monthly changes in her circled orb,5Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.**ROMEO**What shall I swear by?**JULIET**Do not swear at all;Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,Which is the god of my idolatry,10And I'll believe thee.**ROMEO**If my heart's dear love--**JULIET**Well, do not swear: although I joy in thee,I have no joy of this contract to-night:It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;15Too like the lightning, which doth cease to beEre one can say 'It lightens.' Sweet, good night!This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.Good night, good night! as sweet repose and rest20Come to thy heart as that within my breast!**ROMEO**O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?**JULIET**What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?**ROMEO**The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.**JULIET**I gave thee mine before thou didst request it:25And yet I would it were to give again.20 |

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In this extract, Shakespeare presents Romeo and Juliet as having differing attitudes to commitment. Explore and explain the ways that Shakespeare shows this.

Write about:

• how Shakespeare presents Romeo and Juliet’s attitude to commitment in this extract.

You should focus on both language and structure.

 **Turn over**