5

***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 swear  That 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,  5  Lest 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,  10  And 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;  15  Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be  Ere 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 rest  20  Come 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:  25  And 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**