

Romeo and Juliet

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

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

	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, Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.
5	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, And I'll believe thee.
10	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; 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 Come to thy heart as that within my breast!
15	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: And yet I would it were to give again.
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Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents Romeo and Juliet as having differing attitudes to commitment.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo and Juliet's attitude to commitment in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents attitudes to commitment in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question