

ENGLISH



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: 16 PRACTICE QUESTIONS

SCORE

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Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, the narrator opens the story with a famous observation about marriage, and Mrs Bennet tells her husband that Netherfield Park has been let.

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.

“My dear Mr. Bennet,” said his lady to him one day, “have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?”

Mr. Bennet replied that he had not.

“But it is,” returned she; “for Mrs. Long has just been here, and she told me all about it.”

Mr. Bennet made no answer.

“Do not you want to know who has taken it?” cried his wife, impatiently.

“You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it.”

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Mrs Bennet in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, The narrator ironically states that wealthy single men are expected to marry, and Mrs Bennet eagerly shares news of a new neighbour.

Explain the importance of marriage and social status elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how marriage and social status is presented
- the effects marriage and social status has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

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(b) In this extract, The narrator ironically states that wealthy single men are expected to marry, and Mrs Bennet eagerly shares news of a new neighbour.
Explain the importance of the character of Mrs Bennet elsewhere in the novel.
In your answer, you must consider:

- how Mrs Bennet is presented
- the effects Mrs Bennet has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 3 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, the Bennets and their neighbours attend the Meryton assembly, where Mr Bingley and Mr Darcy are seen for the first time.

Mr. Darcy soon drew the attention of the room by his fine, tall person, handsome features, noble mien, and the report, which was in general circulation within five minutes after his entrance, of his having ten thousand a year. The gentlemen pronounced him to be a fine figure of a man, the ladies declared he was much handsomer than Mr. Bingley, and he was looked at with great admiration for about half the evening, till his manners gave a disgust which turned the tide of his popularity; for he was discovered to be proud, to be above his company, and above being pleased; and not all his large estate in Derbyshire could save him from having a most forbidding, disagreeable countenance, and being unworthy to be compared with his friend.

Mr. Bingley had soon made himself acquainted with all the principal people in the room: he was lively and unreserved, danced every dance, was angry that the ball closed so early, and talked of giving one himself at Netherfield. Such amiable qualities must speak for themselves.

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Mr Darcy in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Darcy is admired for his wealth until his proud manner turns the room against him, in contrast to the friendly Bingley.

Explain the importance of pride and first impressions elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how pride and first impressions is presented
- the effects pride and first impressions has within the novel

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In your answer, you must consider:

- how Mr Darcy is presented
- the effects Mr Darcy has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 6 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Mr Darcy has begun to notice Elizabeth at Lucas Lodge although she is unaware of his interest.

Mr. Darcy had at first scarcely allowed her to be pretty: he had looked at her without admiration at the ball; and when they next met, he looked at her only to criticise. But no sooner had he made it clear to himself and his friends that she had hardly a good feature in her face, than he began to find it was rendered uncommonly intelligent by the beautiful expression of her dark eyes. To this discovery succeeded some others equally mortifying. Though he had detected with a critical eye more than one failure of perfect symmetry in her form, he was forced to acknowledge her figure to be light and pleasing; and in spite of his asserting that her manners were not those of the fashionable world, he was caught by their easy playfulness. Of this she was perfectly unaware: to her he was only the man who made himself agreeable nowhere, and who had not thought her handsome enough to dance with.

He began to wish to know more of her; and, as a step towards conversing with her himself, attended to her conversation with others.

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Mr Darcy in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Darcy reluctantly finds himself drawn to Elizabeth's intelligent eyes and playful manners, while she remains unaware.

Explain the importance of love and changing attitudes elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how love and changing attitudes is presented
- the effects love and changing attitudes has within the novel

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Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

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In your answer, you must consider:

- how Mr Darcy is presented
- the effects Mr Darcy has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 34 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Mr Darcy unexpectedly proposes to Elizabeth at Hunsford Parsonage.

“In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.”

Elizabeth’s astonishment was beyond expression. She stared, coloured, doubted, and was silent. This he considered sufficient encouragement, and the avowal of all that he felt and had long felt for her immediately followed. He spoke well; but there were feelings besides those of the heart to be detailed, and he was not more eloquent on the subject of tenderness than of pride. His sense of her inferiority, of its being a degradation, of the family obstacles which judgment had always opposed to inclination, were dwelt on with a warmth which seemed due to the consequence he was wounding, but was very unlikely to recommend his suit.

In spite of her deeply-rooted dislike, she could not be insensible to the compliment of such a man’s affection, and though her intentions did not vary for an instant, she was at first sorry for the pain he was to receive; till roused to resentment by his subsequent language, she lost all compassion in anger.

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Mr Darcy in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Darcy declares his love for Elizabeth but insults her family and social position, which makes her angry.

Explain the importance of pride, class and love elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how pride, class and love is presented
- the effects pride, class and love has within the novel

(20)

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(a) Explore how Austen presents pride, class and love in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Darcy declares his love for Elizabeth but insults her family and social position, which makes her angry.

Explain the importance of the character of Mr Darcy elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Mr Darcy is presented
- the effects Mr Darcy has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 36 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Elizabeth has just read Darcy's letter explaining his actions towards Bingley, Jane and Wickham.

“How despicably have I acted!” she cried. “I, who have prided myself on my discernment! I, who have valued myself on my abilities! who have often disdained the generous candour of my sister, and gratified my vanity in useless or blameless distrust. How humiliating is this discovery! Yet, how just a humiliation! Had I been in love, I could not have been more wretchedly blind. But vanity, not love, has been my folly. Pleased with the preference of one, and offended by the neglect of the other, on the very beginning of our acquaintance, I have courted prepossession and ignorance, and driven reason away where either were concerned. Till this moment, I never knew myself.”

From herself to Jane, from Jane to Bingley, her thoughts were in a line which soon brought to her recollection that Mr. Darcy's explanation there had appeared very insufficient; and she read it again. Widely different was the effect of a second perusal. How could she deny that credit to his assertions, in one instance, which she had been obliged to give in the other?

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Elizabeth Bennet in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Elizabeth realises that her pride and prejudice have blinded her to the truth about both Darcy and Wickham.

Explain the importance of prejudice and self-knowledge elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how prejudice and self-knowledge is presented
- the effects prejudice and self-knowledge has within the novel

(20)

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(a) Explore how Austen presents prejudice and self-knowledge in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

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(b) In this extract, Elizabeth realises that her pride and prejudice have blinded her to the truth about both Darcy and Wickham.

Explain the importance of the character of Elizabeth Bennet elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Elizabeth Bennet is presented
- the effects Elizabeth Bennet has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 43 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Elizabeth and the Gardiners drive through the park towards Pemberley, Darcy's estate in Derbyshire.

The park was very large, and contained great variety of ground. They entered it in one of its lowest points, and drove for some time through a beautiful wood stretching over a wide extent.

Elizabeth's mind was too full for conversation, but she saw and admired every remarkable spot and point of view. They gradually ascended for half a mile, and then found themselves at the top of a considerable eminence, where the wood ceased, and the eye was instantly caught by Pemberley House, situated on the opposite side of the valley, into which the road with some abruptness wound. It was a large, handsome stone building, standing well on rising ground, and backed by a ridge of high woody hills; and in front a stream of some natural importance was swelled into greater, but without any artificial appearance. Its banks were neither formal nor falsely adorned. Elizabeth was delighted. She had never seen a place for which nature had done more, or where natural beauty had been so little counteracted by an awkward taste.

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Elizabeth Bennet in this extract. Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Elizabeth admires the natural beauty and taste of Pemberley, which makes her see Darcy in a new light.

Explain the importance of setting and character elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how setting and character is presented
- the effects setting and character has within the novel

(20)

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Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

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(b) In this extract, Elizabeth admires the natural beauty and taste of Pemberley, which makes her see Darcy in a new light.

Explain the importance of the character of Elizabeth Bennet elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Elizabeth Bennet is presented
- the effects Elizabeth Bennet has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 56 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Lady Catherine de Bourgh has travelled to Longbourn to demand that Elizabeth promise never to marry Mr Darcy.

I am not to be intimidated into anything so wholly unreasonable. Your Ladyship wants Mr. Darcy to marry your daughter; but would my giving you the wished-for promise make their marriage at all more probable? Supposing him to be attached to me, would my refusing to accept his hand make him wish to bestow it on his cousin? Allow me to say, Lady Catherine, that the arguments with which you have supported this extraordinary application have been as frivolous as the application was ill-judged. You have widely mistaken my character, if you think I can be worked on by such persuasions as these. How far your nephew might approve of your interference in his affairs, I cannot tell; but you have certainly no right to concern yourself in mine. I must beg, therefore, to be importuned no further on the subject.”

“Not so hasty, if you please. I have by no means done. To all the objections I have already urged I have still another to add. I am no stranger to the particulars of your youngest sister’s infamous elopement.

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Elizabeth Bennet in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Elizabeth stands up to Lady Catherine and refuses to be bullied into giving up Darcy.

Explain the importance of class, independence and defiance elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how class, independence and defiance is presented
- the effects class, independence and defiance has within the novel

(20)

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(a) Explore how Austen presents class, independence and defiance in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

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(b) In this extract, Elizabeth stands up to Lady Catherine and refuses to be bullied into giving up Darcy.

Explain the importance of the character of Elizabeth Bennet elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how Elizabeth Bennet is presented
- the effects Elizabeth Bennet has within the novel

(20)

(Total for this question = 40 marks)

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice*

Read the following extract from Chapter 58 of *Pride and Prejudice* and then answer both parts of the question.

At this point in the novel, Darcy and Elizabeth are walking together and he speaks openly to her for the second time about his feelings.

“You are too generous to trifle with me. If your feelings are still what they were last April, tell me so at once. My affections and wishes are unchanged; but one word from you will silence me on this subject for ever.”

Elizabeth, feeling all the more than common awkwardness and anxiety of his situation, now forced herself to speak; and immediately, though not very fluently, gave him to understand that her sentiments had undergone so material a change since the period to which he alluded, as to make her receive with gratitude and pleasure his present assurances. The happiness which this reply produced was such as he had probably never felt before; and he expressed himself on the occasion as sensibly and as warmly as a man violently in love can be supposed to do. Had Elizabeth been able to encounter his eyes, she might have seen how well the expression of heartfelt delight diffused over his face became him: but though she could not look she could listen; and he told her of feelings which, in proving of what importance she was to him, made his affection every moment more valuable.

(a) Explore how Austen presents the character of Mr Darcy in this extract.
Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

(20)

(b) In this extract, Darcy offers Elizabeth a second chance to accept him, and she gratefully tells him that her feelings have changed.

Explain the importance of love and personal change elsewhere in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- how love and personal change is presented
- the effects love and personal change has within the novel

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