2.23 Literature: Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen): Test Pack

AQA 8702 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Extract: Pride and Prejudice, Chapter 34 (Mr Darcy's first proposal)

From Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (1813, public domain). In this extract, Mr Darcy proposes marriage to Elizabeth Bennet at the Hunsford parsonage, and she refuses him.

"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 such cases as this, it is, I believe, the established mode to express a sense of obligation for the sentiments avowed, however unequally they may be returned. It is natural that obligation should be felt, and if I could feel gratitude, I would now thank you. But I cannot--I have never desired your good opinion, and you have certainly bestowed it most unwillingly. I am sorry to have occasioned pain to any one. It has been most unconsciously done, however, and I hope will be of short duration."

"And this is all the reply which I am to have the honour of expecting! I might, perhaps, wish to be informed why, with so little endeavour at civility, I am thus rejected."

"I might as well inquire," replied she, "why with so evident a design of offending and insulting me, you chose to tell me that you liked me against your will, against your reason, and even against your character? Had not my own feelings decided against you, had they been indifferent, or had they even been favourable, do you think that any consideration would tempt me to accept the man who has been the means of ruining, perhaps for ever, the happiness of a most beloved sister?"

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1 Look again at the extract above. Identify two words or phrases Austen uses to show that Darcy's pride is present even as he proposes to Elizabeth.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

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2 Identify two details from the extract that show Elizabeth's reaction to Darcy's proposal, and briefly explain what each detail suggests about her feelings at that moment.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Answer the following short questions about the context of the novel.

(a) In which year was Pride and Prejudice first published? **(1)**

(b) Under what description, rather than her own name, was Jane Austen credited on the original title page? **(1)**

(c) What working title did Austen originally give the novel, before it was revised and published under its current title? **(1)**

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.23 Literature: Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen): Test Pack

Question 1

gives one accurate word or phrase showing pride, e.g. inferiority, degradation, or family obstacles **B1**

gives a second, different accurate word or phrase, e.g. the consequence he was wounding, or very unlikely to recommend his suit **B1**

Answer: Any two of: inferiority; degradation; family obstacles (which judgment had always opposed to inclination); the consequence he was wounding; very unlikely to recommend his suit.

Question 2

identifies a first relevant detail, e.g. astonishment was beyond expression **B1**

explains what this detail suggests, e.g. shows she is genuinely shocked and has not been expecting this declaration **B1**

identifies a second, different relevant detail, e.g. stared, coloured, doubted, and was silent **B1**

explains what this detail suggests, e.g. the string of verbs shows a rush of conflicting emotion before she composes herself enough to reply **B1**

Answer: Accept any two textually supported details, each with a linked explanation, e.g. 'astonishment was beyond expression' (genuine shock); 'stared, coloured, doubted, and was silent' (conflicting emotion before she recovers her composure); 'the established mode' (icy, formal politeness masking her anger).

Question 3

(a) 1813 **B1**

(a) Answer: 1813.

(b) By the Author of Sense and Sensibility (accept: by the author of a previous novel) **B1**

(b) Answer: By the Author of Sense and Sensibility.

(c) First Impressions **B1**

(c) Answer: First Impressions.

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