



MR AND MRS BENNET AND MARRIAGE AND SOCIAL STATUS

! YOUR ESSAY MUST MEET ALL THE CRITERIA FOR THE INTRODUCTION, BODY PARAGRAPHS, AS WELL AS CONCLUSION; OTHERWISE, YOUR ESSAY WILL NOT BE MARKED! !



! COMPLETE THE COVER LIST BELOW TO ENSURE YOU HAVE MET ALL THE CRITERIA !

Cover Checklist- Tick Each Section When Complete.

- PREP STEP - Make a copy of this document.
- PREP STEP - Share your essay outline template with your tutor.
- PREP STEP - Copy and paste the link for your essay outline into your study system.
- STEP 1 - Outline your 100% essay - **START WITH THE CONCLUSION & WORK BACKWARDS**
- STEP 2 - Use the TTECEA checklist for details
- STEP 3 - Revise your essay - check for coherence & cohesion, redundant repetition, clarity, vocabulary, etc.
- STEP 4 - Edit your essay.
- STEP 5 - Put your essay together as one complete piece.

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QUESTION

Read the following extract from the opening of Jane Austen's novel 'Pride and Prejudice', then answer the question that follows.

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 neighborhood, 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.'

This was invitation enough.

'Why, my dear, you must know, Mrs. Long says that Netherfield is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north of England; that he came down on Monday in a chaise and four to see the place, and was so much delighted with it that he agreed with Mr. Morris immediately; that he is to take possession before Michaelmas, and some of his servants are to be in the house by the end of next week.'

'What is his name?'

'Bingley.'

'Is he married or single?'

'Oh! single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!'

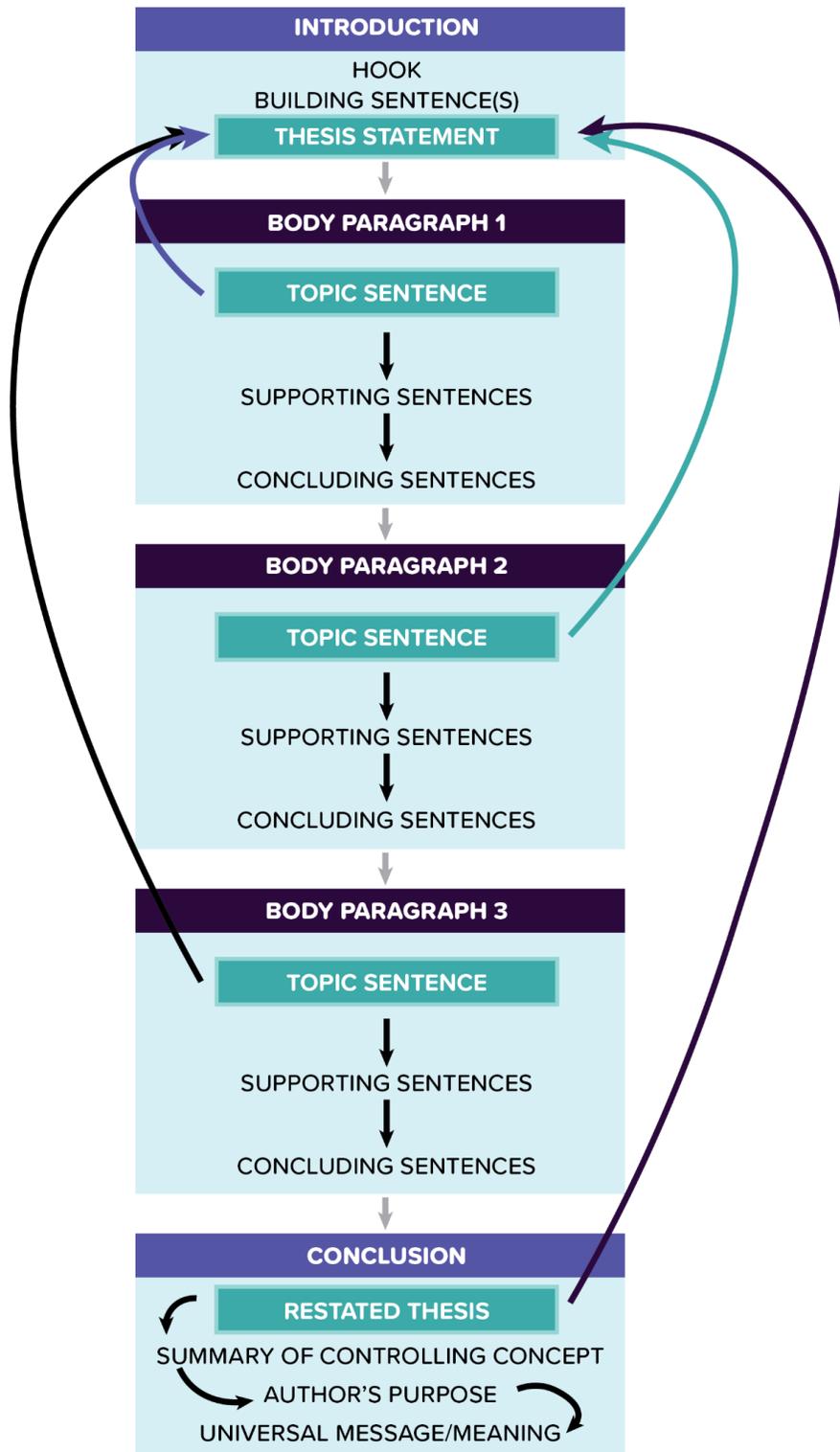
- a. How does Jane Austen present Mr and Mrs Bennet in this extract? [20]
- b. Explain the importance of marriage and social status in the rest of the novel [20]





100% ESSAY STRUCTURE OVERVIEW





ESSAY PLAN: PART A





I. Introduction

- A. Briefly introduce 'Pride and Prejudice'
- B. Mention the author's use of irony, dialogue, and narrative structure to challenge societal expectations

II. Irony

- A. Discuss the novel's opening sentence as situational irony
- B. Explain the satirical tone created through the formal, authoritative voice
- C. Analyse the purpose and effect of the irony in challenging societal expectations

III. Dialogue

- A. Examine Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's contrasting personalities and attitudes towards marriage through their dialogue
- B. Discuss Austen's use of indirect speech and free indirect discourse
- C. Analyse the exploration of the theme of marriage and the emotional/psychological effects of societal expectations

IV. Narrative Structure

- A. Describe the novel's opening in medias res
- B. Explain the introduction of characters and concerns, and how it highlights central themes
- C. Discuss the pacing of dialogue and use of short sentences
- D. Analyse the purpose of the narrative structure in engaging the reader and critiquing societal preoccupations

V. Conclusion

- A. Recap the use of irony, dialogue, and narrative structure in 'Pride and Prejudice'
- B. Reinforce how Austen scrutinises societal norms and offers a multifaceted examination of characters and emotional repercussions





ESSAY PLAN: PART B

I. Introduction

- A. Briefly introduce 'Pride and Prejudice'
- B. Mention the contrasting relationships and Austen's advocacy for a balanced approach to marriage

II. Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy

- A. Discuss their relationship challenging transactional views of marriage
- B. Analyse Elisabeth's rejection of Mr. Darcy's proposal
- C. Explain how their eventual union exemplifies Austen's ideal marriage
- D. Explore the theme of reconsidering societal norms

III. Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas

- A. Describe their marriage as a foil to Elisabeth and Darcy's relationship
- B. Examine Charlotte's pragmatic decision to marry Mr. Collins
- C. Analyse Austen's critique of societal pressures on women
- D. Expose the harsh realities faced by women in Austen's time

IV. The Bennet Family

- A. Discuss the portrayal of the Bennet family and the interplay between marriage and social status
- B. Examine Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's unhappy marriage as a cautionary tale
- C. Explore the Bennet sisters' varied romantic pursuits and outcomes
- D. Illustrate the importance of discernment and wisdom in marriage and social status

V. Conclusion

- A. Recap the exploration of marriage and social status in 'Pride and Prejudice'
- B. Reinforce the importance of a balanced approach to marriage
- C. Discuss Austen's central purpose and main message of the novel





STEP 1a: OUTLINING - Complete Your 100% Essay Outline

Criteria	Status	INTRODUCTION - Do not make this too detailed.
<p>Hook AO1</p> <p>fact/statistic ▾</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	
<p>Building sentence(s) AO3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> counter-argument</p> <p>OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> some contextual info</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	
<p>Thesis statement AO1</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-2</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	In Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice,' the author employs irony, dialogue, and narrative structure to challenge societal expectations of marriage and wealth, while simultaneously providing a nuanced exploration of her characters' personalities and the emotional consequences of adhering to these expectations.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - only focus on KEY IDEA #1
<p>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	Austen's use of irony in the novel's opening sentence sets the stage for the satirical tone that pervades the narrative: 'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife'.
<p>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	Interestingly, this statement serves as a prime example of situational irony, as it contradicts the reader's expectations by suggesting that wealthy single men are actively seeking marriage, rather than the more likely scenario of marriage-minded women pursuing them. Consequently, the use of the formal, authoritative voice ('universally acknowledged') creates an almost satirical tone, thereby prompting the reader to question the validity of such a widely accepted notion. As a result, the effect of this irony is both amusing and thought-provoking, as it highlights the pervasive societal expectation that marriage is a transactional arrangement based on financial security.





<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Austen's ultimate purpose in employing this ironic statement is to challenge the reader to consider the implications of such expectations and the impact they have on the novel's characters.</p>
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - only focus on KEY IDEA #2</p>
<p><u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 2</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Moreover, the dialogue between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet serves as a characterisation tool, showcasing their contrasting personalities and attitudes towards marriage.</p>
<p><u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>For instance, Mrs. Bennet's lines, such as 'What a fine thing for our girls!' reveal her single-minded focus on securing advantageous marriages for her daughters. This is further emphasised by her impatient tone, 'Do not you want to know who has taken it?', which highlights her eagerness to share gossip and her preoccupation with social standing. In contrast, Mr. Bennet's responses, such as 'You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it,' demonstrate his wit and detached amusement. Additionally, Austen's use of indirect speech and free indirect discourse allows the reader to experience the characters' thoughts and feelings, fostering empathy and understanding.</p>
<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>By presenting these contrasting characters, Austen explores the theme of marriage from different perspectives, thereby inviting the reader to consider the emotional and psychological effects of societal expectations on individuals.</p>
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3</p>
<p><u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 3</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Furthermore, Austen's narrative structure in this opening passage also contributes to the presentation of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet.</p>





<p><u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects² 	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Notably, the novel starts in medias res, thrusting the reader into the middle of a conversation about the arrival of a wealthy, single man, Mr. Bingley: 'have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?' . This strategic choice of structure allows Austen to seamlessly introduce her characters and their concerns, while simultaneously highlighting the novel's central themes. The quick pacing of the dialogue, coupled with the use of short, concise sentences, creates a sense of immediacy and urgency, reflecting the characters' eagerness to secure a prosperous match for their daughters: 'A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!' .</p>
<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea) 	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Ultimately, Austen's purpose here is to engage the reader in the unfolding narrative while subtly critiquing societal preoccupations with wealth and status.</p>
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>CONCLUSION - CRUCIAL!</p>
<p><u>Restated thesis AO1</u></p> <p>(Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Ultimately, Austen's purpose here is to engage the reader in the unfolding narrative while subtly critiquing societal preoccupations with wealth and status.</p>
<p><u>Summary of controlling concept AO1</u></p> <p>How does your thesis link to the central theme of the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	
<p><u>Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3</u></p> <p>How does the controlling concept reflect the</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	





MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?		
<u>Universal message AO1</u> (What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	





STEP 1b: OUTLINING - Complete Your 100% Essay Outline

Criteria	Status	INTRODUCTION - Do not make this too detailed.
<p>Hook AO1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> fact/statistic</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	
<p>Guiding sentence(s) AO3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> counter-argument</p> <p>OR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> some contextual info</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	
<p>Thesis statement AO1</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-2</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	In 'Pride and Prejudice,' Jane Austen examines the complexities of marriage and social status through the contrasting relationships of Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas, and the Bennet family as a whole, ultimately advocating for a balanced approach to marriage that values love, compatibility, and discernment over societal expectations and financial considerations.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - only focus on KEY IDEA #1
<p>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-1</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	Austen uses the relationship between Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy to challenge the prevailing notions of marriage as a solely transactional arrangement.
<p>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close-analysis</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	Elisabeth's initial rejection of Mr. Darcy's proposal, despite his wealth and social standing, demonstrates her belief that love and compatibility are more important than material gain: 'You could not have made the offer of your hand in any possible way that would have tempted me to accept it'. Through Elisabeth's character, Austen argues for the importance of personal values and genuine affection in marriage.





<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Consequently, the eventual union of Elisabeth and Darcy, based on mutual respect and understanding, exemplifies Austen's ideal of a marriage that transcends social expectations and financial considerations. In exploring this theme, Austen encourages readers to reconsider the societal norms surrounding marriage and social status.</p>
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - only focus on KEY IDEA #2</p>
<p><u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 2</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>In contrast, the marriage between Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas serves as a foil to Elisabeth and Darcy's relationship, highlighting the practicality and opportunism that often dictated marital choices in Austen's time.</p>
<p><u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Charlotte's pragmatic decision to marry Mr. Collins for financial security, despite his flaws and lack of genuine affection, is a sobering reminder of the limited options available to women during this period: 'I am not romantic, you know. I never was. I ask only a comfortable home'. Through Charlotte's character, Austen critiques the societal pressures that force women to prioritise wealth and social standing over personal happiness and self-fulfillment.</p>
<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Thus, in examining this theme, Austen exposes the harsh realities faced by women in a society where marriage was often their only means of achieving financial stability and social respectability.</p>
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3</p>
<p><u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 3</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Furthermore, the novel's portrayal of the Bennet family as a whole underscores the complex interplay between marriage and social status, demonstrating the consequences of prioritising financial gain and social advancement above all else.</p>





<p><u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> terminology <input type="checkbox"/> evidence <input type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input type="checkbox"/> effects* 	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's own unhappy marriage, the result of a hasty union based on superficial attraction, serves as a cautionary tale for their five daughters: 'Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and caprice, that the experience of three-and-twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character'.</p>
<p><u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea) 	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Additionally, the Bennet sisters' varied romantic pursuits and outcomes, such as Lydia's scandalous elopement with Mr. Wickham, emphasise the need for a balanced approach to marriage that considers love, compatibility, and social considerations. Austen's purpose in exploring these themes is to illustrate the importance of exercising discernment and wisdom in matters of marriage and social status.</p>
<p>Criteria</p>	<p>Status</p>	<p>CONCLUSION - CRUCIAL!</p>
<p><u>Restated thesis AO1</u></p> <p>(Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Throughout 'Pride and Prejudice,' Jane Austen's exploration of the intricacies of marriage and social status, as evidenced by the contrasting relationships of Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas, and the Bennet family, underscores the importance of a balanced approach to marriage that prioritises love, compatibility, and discernment over societal expectations and financial concerns.</p>
<p><u>Summary of controlling concept AO1</u></p> <p>How does your thesis link to the central theme of the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>At the heart of the novel lies the concept of navigating societal norms and expectations in the pursuit of true happiness and self-fulfillment.</p>
<p><u>Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3</u></p> <p>How does the controlling concept reflect the MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>Austen's central purpose may be to expose the challenges and consequences of adhering to or defying the social conventions of her time, particularly in the context of marriage and social status..</p>





[Universal message AO1](#)

(What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)

Complete ▾

(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)

Through the intricate tapestry of relationships and personal growth in the novel, Austen imparts the main message that striking a balance between love, compatibility, and discernment is crucial in attaining a harmonious and fulfilling life

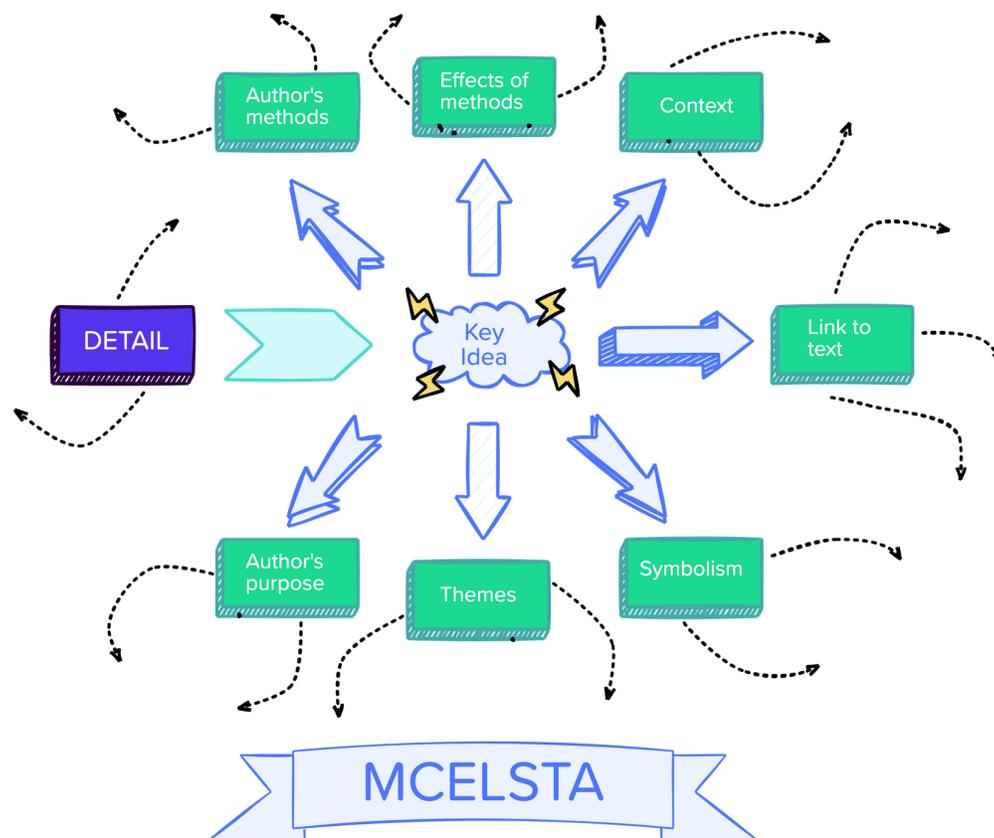




STEP 2: ADDING DETAIL-Complete the TTECEA Checklist for Detail

1. To achieve a grade 9 level of detail, ensure that you link your key idea in each of your body paragraphs to as many of the elements of the TTECEA mnemonic as possible (aim to write about 650-950 words maximum for the entire essay)
2. You do not need to have each of the TTECEA elements in each paragraph, but make sure you have all of them in the entirety of your essay.
3. Each item on the checklist should only have 2 main purposes:
 - a. **to link to your key idea in each paragraph**
 - b. **and support your argument.**

- ✓ **TOPIC SENTENCE:** Introduce the key idea of your body paragraph.
- ✓ **TECHNIQUE:** Select a key technique the author uses (one you can explore in detail, eg, metaphor, simile, etc):
- ✓ **EVIDENCE:** EMBED a quote to back up your ideas:
- ✓ **CLOSE ANALYSIS:** Break the technique into smaller pieces, zoom in and analyse them PERCEPTIVELY:
- ✓ **EFFECTS ON THE READER*:** Explore what the author's method makes us focus on, feel (emotionally) or think:
- ✓ **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE:** Explore why the might want to make us feel a certain way about certain ideas:





STEP 3: REVISING - Revise Your Essay

Ensure you have revised the following aspects of your essay:

- Removed/replaced ALL redundant repetition.
- Replaced ALL instances of the word 'shows' with more accurate and specific verbs for inferring effects of the author's methods ([check toolkit](#)).
- Revised essay for coherence: are the ideas in each of the paragraphs clearly connected to each other?
- Revised essay for cohesion: [check the toolkit for help](#).
- Removed all instances of the following words and replace them with specific details of the topics you are exploring:
 - How
 - Shows
 - Some
 - Something
 - Thing
 - This
 - Way
 - What
- Your vocabulary is academic – no informal language unless quoting directly.
- Revised essay for clarity – is your essay easy to read? Ask a peer to read it and give you feedback.





STEP 4: EDITING - Edit Your Essay

Ensure you have edited the following aspects of spelling, punctuation, and grammar:

- All words are spelt correctly.
- All sentences and names begin with a capital ~~see guidelines below~~ 
- All sentences end with a full stop.
-  No sentences are separated with a comma  
- I used a comma ~~before and after~~ the following words or phrases:
 - for example,
 - however
- I have used ellipses to indicate missing words in quotes.
- I have used at least one semi-colon to separate or join closely related sentences:
 - The language paper focuses on various forms of writing; the literature paper focuses primarily on academic essay writing.
 - There are five keys to a grade 9 essay: structure, conceptualisation, context, detail, and convincing evidence.
- I have used a colon to introduce a quote, phrase, word, etc.

HOW TO REMEMBER CAPITALS - ABLE PRINTS:

- **Abbreviations: U.K., USA, UAE**
- **Beginnings of sentences: Nobody saw it coming.**
- **Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic,**
- **Emphasis - I LOVE CHEESE! (avoid this)**

- **Places: Africa, Mecca, London, Zimbabwe**
- **Religions and words related to them: Islam/Muslim, Christianity/Christian, Judaism/Jewish, Hinduism/Hindu**
- **I, as in me**
- **Names (specific) of people, places, businesses, e.g., Shakespeare, Apple, London.**
- **Titles of books, movies, or programmes, e.g., The Lion King, Macbeth,**
- **Special days: Eid, Christmas, Diwali**

SPAG RULES

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/category/handbook/>





STEP 5a

In Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice,' the author employs irony, dialogue, and narrative structure to challenge societal expectations of marriage and wealth, while simultaneously providing a nuanced exploration of her characters' personalities and the emotional consequences of adhering to these expectations.

Austen's use of irony in the novel's opening sentence sets the stage for the satirical tone that pervades the narrative: 'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife' . Interestingly, this statement serves as a prime example of situational irony, as it contradicts the reader's expectations by suggesting that wealthy single men are actively seeking marriage rather than the more likely scenario of marriage-minded women pursuing them. Consequently, the use of the formal, authoritative voice ('universally acknowledged') creates an almost satirical tone, thereby prompting the reader to question the validity of such a widely accepted notion. As a result, the effect of this irony is both amusing and thought-provoking, as it highlights the pervasive societal expectation that marriage is a transactional arrangement based on financial security. Austen's ultimate purpose in employing this ironic statement is to challenge the reader to consider the implications of such expectations and the impact they have on the novel's characters.

Moreover, the dialogue between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet serves as a characterisation tool, showcasing their contrasting personalities and attitudes towards marriage. For instance, Mrs. Bennet's lines, such as 'What a fine thing for our girls!' reveal her single-minded focus on securing advantageous marriages for her daughters. This is further emphasised by her impatient tone, 'Do not you want to know who has taken it?', which highlights her eagerness to share gossip and her preoccupation with social standing. In contrast, Mr. Bennet's responses, such as 'You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it,' demonstrate his wit and detached amusement. Additionally, Austen's use of indirect speech and free indirect discourse allows the reader to experience the characters' thoughts and feelings, fostering empathy and understanding. By presenting these contrasting characters, Austen explores the theme of marriage from different perspectives, thereby inviting the reader to consider the emotional and psychological effects of societal expectations on individuals.

Furthermore, Austen's narrative structure in this opening passage also contributes to the presentation of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet. Notably, the novel starts in medias res, thrusting the reader into the middle of a conversation about the arrival of a wealthy, single man, Mr. Bingley: 'have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?'. This strategic choice of structure allows Austen to seamlessly introduce her characters and their concerns, while simultaneously highlighting the novel's central themes. The quick pacing of the dialogue, coupled with the use of short, concise sentences, creates a sense of immediacy and urgency, reflecting the characters' eagerness to secure a prosperous match for their daughters: 'A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!' . Ultimately, Austen's purpose here is to engage the reader in the unfolding narrative while subtly critiquing societal preoccupations with wealth and status.

In conclusion, Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' masterfully utilises irony, dialogue, and narrative structure as a means to scrutinise societal norms surrounding marriage and wealth while concurrently offering a multifaceted examination of the characters' personalities and the emotional repercussions that stem from conforming to these expectations.





STEP 5b

In 'Pride and Prejudice,' Jane Austen examines the complexities of marriage and social status through the contrasting relationships of Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas, and the Bennet family as a whole, ultimately advocating for a balanced approach to marriage that values love, compatibility, and discernment over societal expectations and financial considerations.

Austen uses the relationship between Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy to challenge the prevailing notions of marriage as a solely transactional arrangement. Elisabeth's initial rejection of Mr. Darcy's proposal, despite his wealth and social standing, demonstrates her belief that love and compatibility are more important than material gain: 'You could not have made the offer of your hand in any possible way that would have tempted me to accept it'. Through Elisabeth's character, Austen argues for the importance of personal values and genuine affection in marriage. Consequently, the eventual union of El Elisabeth and Darcy, based on mutual respect and understanding, exemplifies Austen's ideal of a marriage that transcends social expectations and financial considerations. In exploring this theme, Austen encourages readers to reconsider the societal norms surrounding marriage and social status.

In contrast, the marriage between Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas serves as a foil to Elisabeth and Darcy's relationship, highlighting the practicality and opportunism that often dictated marital choices in Austen's time. Charlotte's pragmatic decision to marry Mr. Collins for financial security, despite his flaws and lack of genuine affection, is a sobering reminder of the limited options available to women during this period: 'I am not romantic, you know. I never was. I ask only a comfortable home'. Through Charlotte's character, Austen critiques the societal pressures that force women to prioritise wealth and social standing over personal happiness and self-fulfilment. Thus, in examining this theme, Austen exposes the harsh realities faced by women in a society where marriage was often their only means of achieving financial stability and social respectability.

Furthermore, the novel's portrayal of the Bennet family as a whole underscores the complex interplay between marriage and social status, demonstrating the consequences of prioritising financial gain and social advancement above all else. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's own unhappy marriage, the result of a hasty union based on superficial attraction, serves as a cautionary tale for their five daughters: 'Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and caprice, that the experience of three-and-twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character'. Additionally, the Bennet sisters' varied romantic pursuits and outcomes, such as Lydia's scandalous elopement with Mr. Wickham, emphasise the need for a balanced approach to marriage that considers love, compatibility, and social considerations. Austen's purpose in exploring these themes is to illustrate the importance of exercising discernment and wisdom in matters of marriage and social status.

Throughout 'Pride and Prejudice,' Jane Austen's exploration of the intricacies of marriage and social status, as evidenced by the contrasting relationships of Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, Mr. Collins and Charlotte Lucas, and the Bennet family, underscores the importance of a balanced approach to marriage that prioritises love, compatibility, and discernment over societal expectations and financial concerns. At the heart of the novel lies the concept of navigating societal norms and expectations in the pursuit of true happiness and self-fulfilment. Austen's central purpose may be to expose the challenges and consequences of adhering to or defying the social conventions of her time, particularly in the context of marriage and social status. Through the intricate tapestry of relationships and personal growth in the novel, Austen imparts the main message that striking a balance between love, compatibility, and discernment is crucial in attaining a harmonious and fulfilling life.

