

# GCSE (9–1)

## *Topic Exploration Pack*

J352

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Candidate Style Answers:  
Pride and Prejudice  
– Jane Austen

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## Script A

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This extract occurs ~~that~~ when Charlotte Lucas accepts Mr Collins' proposal. It comes after Mr Collins' proposal to Lizzie which Austen uses to draw contrasts between the two women. They are presented as polar opposites due to their reactions of the proposal and ~~to~~ how Charlotte thinks practically whilst Lizzie thinks romantically.

Austen presents Charlotte as a foil to Lizzie in order to show their opposing views to marriage. Whilst 'marriage' had always been her object (Charlotte's), Lizzie is presented in the novel by Austen as choosing to marry for love and so she waits until she is in a marriage of 'mutual understanding' and 'respect'. Austen shows how Charlotte believes in marrying for pragmatic reasons whilst Lizzie wishes to marry for romantic reasons. Charlotte believes 'happiness in marriage is merely a matter of chance' and Lizzie ~~condemns~~ criticizes Charlotte telling her she will never marry just for security. Austen draws these contrasts through both Lizzie and Charlotte's marriages as Charlotte is presented ~~that~~ being 'tolerably composed' whilst Lizzie's marriage is portrayed as fiery and romantic. They both present different types of marriages.

Through Austen's Omniscient 3rd person narration, we see how she uses her ironic voice to contrast the two characters. Earlier she shows how Charlotte is often right and this is contrasted to Lizzie's own hypocrisy, 'you will never do that', this is done to present Lizzie's ~~reason~~ as too assertive and proud.

...continued



## Script A

## Page 2 of 3

for her own good as we learn with Lizzie that Charlotte does exactly as she says she will. Austen~~s~~ also uses her narration to ~~and~~ depict how Charlotte is Mr Collins' third choice and she shows explicitly through her choice of words that they will not be an equal match, 'his society was irksome .. must be imaginary, but still he would be her husband', this condemning language is used by Austen to contrast the different marriages as she later speaks fondly of the marriage between Lizzie and Darcy. <sup>Austen</sup> ~~she~~ uses words such as 'satisfactory.. tolerable.. sensible' to portray what Charlotte looks for in her marriage whilst Lizzie is keener for 'happiness' 'understanding', Austen does this to show the readers two different portrayals of women at that time and their difference in belief. Charlotte is presented throughout as 'modest, only honourable provision for well-educated women with small fortune', whilst Lizzie is presented as demanding and proud, she looks for men with 'fine' looks. In some ways, Austen presents Lizzie as a much shallower character.

Austen uses the theme of family throughout this extract to show the opposing views of the women. Charlotte's brothers 'were relieved', this is a striking contrast to the 'silly' Bennet Sisters who were embarrassing, jealous and often snidey towards their sister Lizzie. Charlotte has been brought up with the morals that you can't be too ~~rich~~ ~~an~~ judgmental

...continued

## Script A

## Page 3 of 3

and in order to ~~be~~ marry, you ~~are~~ must be easily satisfied. The Lucases think Mr Collins 'is a most eligible match' which is ironic as Austen shows Mr Collins' pomposity and arrogance earlier during his proposal to Lizzie. He is 'a mixture of servility...'. ~~Thus~~ The Lucases have reflected their views on marriage to Charlotte as they are all 'overjoyed on this occasion.' ~~When presented them by~~ However, Austen also draws similarities between the two families, Lady Lucas is vulgar, 'calculate... how many years longer Mr Bennet was likely to live', these bad manners are similar to that of Mrs Bennet who focuses entirely on wealth. Despite Mr Collins' less amiable personality than other men, Austen uses the reaction of the family to show the contentment for Charlotte juxtaposed to Lizzie's horror of being proposed to by Mr Collins.

Jane Austen sets up the striking contrast between the characters to foreshadow how they will both end up happily in very different marriages. Charlotte is ~~the~~ a depiction of a typical woman at that time whilst Lizzie is seen as a strong minded, modern version. ~~Through the two proposals~~ Austen shows through the two proposals how strikingly different the two friends attitudes to marriage are.

## Script A

### Examiner commentary

This response adopts a sustained critical style throughout, showing some perceptive understanding. It is an informed personal response to the text.

The candidate addresses the question immediately, citing that through the proposals by Mr Collins, Lizzie and Charlotte are presented as 'polar opposites' because of their differing reactions. The candidate compares Charlotte's practical attitude to marriage to Lizzie's more romantic expectations. The response moves skilfully beyond the extract to show perceptive understanding of the wider novel, while keeping sharply focused on the question set.

Quotations are pertinent and fully integrated into the response to support and illustrate the points made.

There is an excellent balance of AO2 and AO3 coverage in this response. Austen's narrative voice is explored, and her criticism of Elizabeth's pride

in the novel acknowledged and contrasted to Charlotte's tendency to view life practically and follow her intended course. This is an insightful point and strongly made. There is also analysis of the 'condemning language' used to describe Charlotte's feelings towards her fiancé. Throughout the response the candidate shows understanding of the pressure placed on Charlotte to marry through the responses of her family members to the engagement. Charlotte's 'contentment' is ascribed to her new-found respect as a woman who is to be married rather than an 'old maid'.

The spelling and punctuation are consistently accurate and a wide vocabulary is used.

#### Level 6





## Script B

## Page 1 of 3

2) 'Mrs. Bennet is a bad mother who is responsible for her ~~worst~~ daughters' problems'. How far do you agree with this view?

In *Pride and Prejudice* Mrs. Bennet is one of the first characters the reader is introduced to. It is made clear very soon that she ~~is~~ has certain things in her mind that she needs to do, as "the ~~purpose~~ <sup>business</sup> of her life was to get her daughters married, its sole aim being and very." We are told her main role in her daughters' lives is to marry them off to rich husbands, which is what we see her try to attempt in the novel.

Mrs. Bennet could be seen as a bad mother from Jane Austen's ~~direct~~ ~~satirical~~ ~~commentary~~ narrative voice. Jane Austen is quite a judgemental narrator and in the novel she uses direct authorial comment to comment on her characters, and she does this with Mrs. Bennet in the first chapter, saying she has "mean understanding". This would suggest she is a bad mother if she cannot understand her daughters, and we are meant to trust Austen's comments as a reliable narrator. Another narrative technique Austen uses for Mrs. Bennet is free indirect discourse. By using this she mimics the voice and words of Mrs. Bennet, usually to mock her. This could suggest she is a bad mother as the reader can imagine how it must be to listen to her talking and how ridiculous she must sound.

Jane Austen makes Mrs. Bennet seem like a bad mother when she irritates Jane goes in the rain to Netherfield. In this part of the story Austen makes the reader feel sympathy for Jane as she politely asks for the carriage, but her mother is very impatient in her

...continued

## Script B

## Page 2 of 3

going on horseback, "for it is sure to rain, and you will have to stay the night". This emphasises how occupied she is with getting her daughters married, but is put in a negative light as she wants Jane to get ill, something a good mother would not ~~be~~ want. Jane Austen uses irony to emphasise this, by saying Mr Bennet saw "all the happy indications of a bad day", mocking her and encouraging the reader to think badly of her. When Jane does get ill, Mr. Bennet teases his wife and her bad judgment by saying that if Jane died it would be her fault, and Jane Austen further suggests she is a bad mother as she only replies how "people don't die from trifling colds", and doesn't seem to care about the well-being of her daughter.

Another example of Austen suggesting Mr. Bennet is a bad mother is at the Netherfield Ball. During dinner she sits opposite Darcy and boasts about how Jane is going to marry Bingley. This is an example of when Austen uses free indirect discourse to mimic Mr. Bennet, as she lists what she says, using "firmly", "decidedly", "and lastly", but doesn't stop there as later "she concluded". This emphasises how she won't stop talking. Austen also uses the reactions of others to ~~be~~ suggest her character, as Elizabeth gets very embarrassed by "blushing", Darcy shows "contempt" and Lady Lucas returns to the "comfort of cold ham and chicken". The humor created here suggests how intolerably Mr. Bennet was being but also how inconsiderate he was by boasting about the marriage of her eldest when Lady Lucas' Charlotte has not married. This event is particularly important because it solidifies Darcy's decision to split up Jane and Bingley, ironic as it is what she is boasting about and she has completely undone

...continued



## Script B

## Page 3 of 3

"the ruin of her life".

Mrs. Bennet isn't a likable character, and is one of the main people Austen ~~uses~~ uses irony for to mock her and ~~expose~~ expose her flaws. However, ~~she~~ she could just be a product of her time, and I think we truly believe she is doing what's best for her girls as they would end up homeless if they couldn't find somewhere to live, and makes it clear she wishes the property didn't go to Mr. Collins. ~~But~~ Although she is very annoying, she understands the importance of marriage and money in the Regency Period and so wants to help her daughters. However she does not help them very much, as she doesn't understand etiquette. Overall I partially agree with the statement, as I believe she is a bad mother from the examples I've used, ~~but~~ but I also think her intentions are good.

## Script B

### Examiner commentary

This response adopts a convincing critical style throughout, showing some insightful understanding. It is a well-developed personal response to the text.

The response looks at a range of examples from the novel to explore whether Mrs Bennet is a bad mother, or not. It immediately acknowledges that her purpose is to find her daughters rich husbands, and that she views it as a 'business'. The response then looks at Mrs Bennet's refusal to allow Jane to use the carriage to travel to Netherfield in the hope that the weather will turn, forcing her to stay, and her behaviour at the Netherfield Ball as the two moments from the novel to explore in detail.

Language is analysed effectively through offering examples of Austen's 'direct authorial comment' to influence the reader's response to Mrs Bennet. It also

cites Austen's use of free indirect discourse to 'mimic Mrs Bennet' and to emphasise that 'she won't stop talking'.

There is sensitive understanding of how the social context of the novel informs the text, illustrated through comments on the importance of marriage and the effect of the entailment of the estate on Mrs Bennet's desire 'to help her daughters'. There is also a good understanding of how Mrs Bennet's lack of etiquette lends itself to mockery through the authorial voice and the reactions of other characters.

The spelling and punctuation are consistently accurate and a wide vocabulary is used.

#### **Level 5 (top end)**



## Script C

## Page 1 of 2

1. Explore how Jane Austen presents Charlotte Lucas' attitude to marriage as different from Elizabeth's, in this extract and elsewhere in the novel.

As the extract only occurs a few chapters away from Mr Collins' proposal to ~~Lizzie~~ Elizabeth, this extract shows the differences between the behaviours of the Lucases and the Bennets, ~~predominantly~~ <sup>differences in views</sup> being the ~~views upon~~ matrimony of Elizabeth and Charlotte. While Elizabeth seems to see marriage as defined by love and attraction, one of her reasons for refusing Mr Collins, Charlotte sees matrimony as a necessary path to social and financial security.

Charlotte sees marriage as a business arrangement, ~~and from~~ <sup>likely because from</sup> her first appearance in the novel she has been described as "fair", or "without ever being handsome". The extract here gives further insight into her ~~motivations and ethics~~ to marry Mr Collins, "it was the only honourable provision for well-educated women of small fortune", and earlier we see ~~that~~ she had "set out to accidentally intercede" Mr Collins ~~when~~ having left Longbourne scorned. This idea of "fix[ing] your man" before you become an "old maid" is one that is explored throughout the novel through Charlotte's character; ~~and~~ an idea that is often scorned by Lizzie.

The fact that Elizabeth ~~and~~ refused not one, but two proposals of marriage is ~~the~~ <sup>one of the</sup> main ~~reasons~~ <sup>difference</sup> in her view of matrimony to Charlotte's. The only reason why Charlotte would refuse someone would either be for lack of ~~any~~ financial security or tarnished reputation, the latter of which she would probably overlook if the person had enough money. Elizabeth, however, refuses Collins for the lack of romance and ~~any~~ <sup>mutual</sup> affinity between them, and Darcy (for the first time) for the fact that he destroyed ~~Wickham's~~ <sup>Wickham's</sup> happiness. ~~Austen~~ <sup>Austen</sup> presents Elizabeth's view of marriage as consistently based around ideas of

...continued



## Script C

## Page 2 of 2

mutual respect and understanding, thus allowing her pride overcome her judgement, ~~thereas~~ whilst portraying Charlotte's view as ~~romantic~~ romantic and practical. Charlotte is described as not "thinking highly of either men or matrimony" whilst keeping marriage as her "object" in life.

Austen's portrayal of matrimony in the eyes of the two characters are wildly different, ~~but both~~ however share a common detail: ~~both~~ <sup>both</sup> are possibly shaped by the ideologies of their mothers. ~~Emphasises the difference~~ ~~in their views~~ In chapter 1, Mrs Bennet says "but think what would happen if he actually fell in love with one of them"; Although ~~she~~ her ~~and~~ sole purpose in life is to marry off her five daughters, she still ponders love as an option, like Elizabeth. Lady Lucas, on the other hand, also sees marriage as a business arrangement in which a daughter "to whom they could give little fortune" could become mistress of the estate of their friends, ~~as~~ provided that their neighbour dies soon enough - "Lady Lucas began directly to calculate... how many years longer Mr Bennet was likely to live".

## Script C

### Examiner commentary

This response adopts a good critical style and focuses sharply on the question from the outset, citing Elizabeth's romantic view of marriage and contrasting it to Charlotte's view of matrimony 'as a necessary path to social and financial security'.

The candidate looks at the extract in a detailed personal response, using quotations very neatly to support the points made. The focus of the response is weighted towards AO3, exploring Charlotte's business-like approach to her engagement and her mother's influence on that viewpoint.

There is little response to language, although the neatly embedded quotations imply understanding of how language is used. This limits the response in terms of addressing the assessment objectives. A best fit approach has been used to place the response in a marking level.

The spelling and punctuation are consistently accurate and a wide vocabulary is used.

**Level 4**



## Script D

## Page 1 of 3

- 1 Explore how Jane Austen presents Charlotte Lucas's attitude to marriage as different from Elizabeth's, in this extract and elsewhere in the novel.

This extract reveals Charlotte Lucas's ~~an~~ rushed acceptance to Mr Collins' marriage offer.

~~To begin this extract, Austen says "Sir William~~ Austen reveals the ideas of key themes of love, ~~and~~ marriage and money with in this extract.

To begin, Austen says "Sir William and Lady Lucas were speedily applied to for their consent" immediately, this reveals the fact that Charlotte and Mr Collins are rushing marriage, a process, which in reality would have taken a longer time. This results in an increase of pace within the extract and the part of the novel it is embedded in. Adding to this Austen then goes on to explain how the both of them are planning the marriage.

The increasing rush of the marriage of Mr Collins and Charlotte Lucas ~~As~~ also ~~reveals~~ reveals the key themes of love, marriage and money. After achieving consent to <sup>the</sup> marriage Austen ~~says~~ says "Lady Lucas began directly to calculate, with more interest than the matter ever excited before, how many years longer Mr Bennet was to live" This reveals that they do not pay attention to any form of love, but only the ~~future~~ <sup>stability</sup> of

...continued



## Script D

## Page 2 of 3

(2)

their daughter's future. This is because when Mr Bennet dies instead of his house, ~~long~~ Longbourn being handed to his wife and 5 five daughters it is entailed off to his male cousin, Mr Collins. When saying ~~th~~ that Mr Collins is a 'most eligible' match for their daughter, again they are only saying it because of his wealth. This is ~~clearly~~ enforced when it is clearly stated that Lady Lucas & and Sir William could give little fortune to their daughter. ○

Austen shows a contrast between Mr Collins and Charlotte Lucas to portray to the reader the lack of love and happiness their marriage would withhold. ~~As~~ Austen describes Charlotte as "tolerably composed" and says "Mr Collins, to be sure, was neither sensible or agreeable" to explain Mr Collins. Austen explains that, although matrimony or men had never been thought highly of by her, marriage had always been her object. This because Charlotte sees marriage as a transition to a stable future whereas a character such as Elizabeth sees marriage as a aim for love. This shows a clear contrast ~~of that Charlotte makes~~ between the two perspectives of marriage.

Mr Collins is also portrayed to the reader as a person ~~marrying~~ marrying for the future instead of happiness. This is clear to us because previously Mr Collins proposed to Elizabeth and after being rejected and

...continued



## Script D

## Page 3 of 3

(3)

After realizing Elizabeth's lack of money he moved straight on to Charlotte Lucas. Also, in the novel Mr Collins is ~~po~~ conveyed as a man who never openly gives his own opinion but in fact adopts other opinion that would please others, such as Lady Catherine and opinions that would make him look better.



## Script D

### Examiner commentary

This is a reasonably developed response to both text and task, although it focuses more heavily on Charlotte than Elizabeth. It begins by highlighting that the engagement and marriage of Charlotte and Mr Collins is being 'rushed' and tends to repeat this point, using quotation from the extract to support the assertion.

Understanding of the social context informs the response and there are some relevant comments about the entailment of Mr Bennet's estate, and Charlotte's view that marriage is her route to 'a stable future'. The response does not look at Elizabeth's

attitude to marriage in any detail, instead focusing on Mr Collins' motives, which is not wholly relevant to the question. This has led to a rather thin response to the task.

There is little explicit comment on language, which results in uneven focus on the assessment objectives.

The spelling and punctuation are mostly accurate and there is a suitable range of vocabulary used.

#### Level 3





## Script E

## Page 1 of 2

1. Explore how Jane Austen presents Charlotte Lucas's attitude to marriage as different from Elizabeth's

highlighted in the beginning sentence

Jane Austen highlights the importance of marriage throughout the novel and establishes this in even the first sentence of the novel, exclaiming how 'a single man in possession of a large fortune, must be in want of a wife'.

Austen uses this importance to ~~show~~ its huge importance for stability a woman's economic stability, ~~not attitudes towards marriage are not wholly~~ romantic, this is highlighted but most ~~as this essay Charlotte Lucas~~ develops this attitude on the ~~novel~~ ~~although it is not~~

Due to its huge importance for a woman's economic stability, attitudes towards marriage are not ~~expressed as~~ <sup>as shown through Charlotte Lucas's response</sup> wholly romantic. This is further highlighted <sup>through the use of irony</sup> in the opening sentence, ~~as~~ as it is not a 'truth universally acknowledged' for a man to be in want of a wife but oppositely for a woman to be in want of a husband.

Austen presents this attitude towards marriage ~~in the character of Charlotte Lucas~~ through the use of dialogue between Charlotte ~~Lucas~~ and Elizabeth <sup>earlier on in the novel</sup>. Contrasted with Charlotte's logical approach to matrimony, ~~Elizabeth~~ where she describes how marriage is 'not for love' and ~~that is~~ <sup>is</sup> primarily to secure a home, ~~Elizabeth's~~ Elizabeth's reactions are revealed as much more romanticized as she believes that love should not be a happy coincidence but should be the basis of a proposal. Austen further highlights her attitude through Elizabeth's refusal to marry Mr Collins, ~~despite the fact that he could support her financially.~~ <sup>despite the fact that he could support her financially.</sup>

Through the characterization of Mr Collins, Austen also ~~question~~ <sup>highlights</sup> this narrow-minded view of marriage among men. In an earlier chapter of the novel ~~Mr Collins~~ is pompous and self-important, Austen is able to ~~highlight~~ <sup>further reveal</sup> Charlotte's attitude towards marriage, as financially important, through her acceptance despite her understanding of his character. ~~The reader has been predisposed to Mr Collins's earlier proposal~~

...continued

## Script E

## Page 2 of 2

Thence to ~~the~~ Elizabeth also ~~revealed~~ showed her attitude as  
although it was much encouraged by Mrs Bennet, his  
~~proper~~ self-obsessed proposal was declined, ultimately ~~additionally~~ <sup>Mr Collins</sup> ~~his~~  
~~attitudes towards~~ unromanticised attitude towards marriage as  
he described it as almost a favour to Lady Catherine De Bourgh,  
foreshadowed his marriage to Charlotte Lucas.

~~Given to~~



## Script E

### Examiner commentary

This response begins to develop a straightforward personal response to the text and task.

The response begins with a general comment about the theme of marriage instead of focusing on the question and the extract provided. There is some understanding of the social context in the opening paragraph but it is not integrated into a relevant response to the question.

The second paragraph is more focused and shows understanding of Charlotte's 'logical approach to matrimony' and Elizabeth's 'much more romanticised' beliefs. The response then cites that Charlotte's acceptance of Mr Collins, despite her

acknowledgement of his character faults, shows that finances are more important than anything. Elizabeth's refusal of Mr Collins, despite her mother's pressure to accept him, is mentioned but no clear point about Elizabeth is made.

This response does not look at language in the extract, or elsewhere in the novel, thus leading to uneven focus on the assessment objectives.

The punctuation is generally accurate in this response, but there are a number of spelling errors.

#### Level 3





## Script F

## Page 1 of 1

Mrs Bennet is a bad mother who is responsible for her daughters' problems.

In *Pride & Prejudice*, Mrs Bennet is a key character whom Austen uses in order to mock & create irony. She is the mother of Lizzie & her siblings & the wife of their father Mr. Bennet. Austen uses Mrs Bennet to explore the different types of marriages as well as the way in which marriage is an important concept.

The opening of the novel is our first introduction to the Bennets, particularly Mrs Bennet. We ~~mean~~ immediately come to understand how important, getting her daughters married, is ("The business of her life was to get her daughters married, it's sole was visiting & news"). In the opening we also become familiar with Mrs Bennet's personality ~~shown~~ through <sup>Austen's</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> person narration. Due to Austen's description of Mrs Bennet we become quite hostile to her as we see her as a bad mother, ~~because of the way she is~~ we are also told about Mrs Bennet's idiocy & her "mean" understanding, therefore allowing her to become a character used for mockery.

Austen's key method in order to present Mrs Bennet as a bad mother is irony. Through ~~satire~~ <sup>satire</sup>, Austen mocks Mrs Bennet as she shows the way in which Mrs Bennet talks too much - through long compound sentences she conveys this.

## Script F

### Examiner commentary

This response makes some relevant comments but is rather short and undeveloped.

The response acknowledges that Mrs Bennet is a character used by Austen to 'mock and create irony' as well as to 'explore the different types of marriages' but no illustrations or developments of these points follow. The task is not addressed in the opening paragraph.

There is some understanding of Mrs Bennet's desire to 'get her daughters married' but again this is not fully developed. The response asserts that we 'become quite familiar with Mrs Bennet's personality through

Austen's use of third person narration', but this is not explained or illustrated. There are also references to 'syntax' and 'long compound sentences' to illustrate that 'Mrs Bennet talks too much' but no examples are offered to support the point.

Although the response makes some straightforward points, it lacks the development needed for a higher level. The response does not focus on the task and is therefore very general.

The spelling and punctuation are generally accurate.

**Level 1 (top end)**



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