Fill in the gaps with the relevant quotations and references

Explain the significance of the title of *Pride and Prejudice*

The society of which Austen writes is concerned with reputation and appearance. Gossip also fuels nearly every social gathering we see, from the public Netherfield Ball to the private gatherings at home with the Bennets. The theme of judgement is one that runs throughout the novel, lying as it does at the centre of all events. Pre-judging people is a favourite pastime, illustrated by the opening sentence: ______________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

The two main characters are both guilty of pride and prejudice and must learn the errors of their ways before they can live ‘happily ever after’. Elizabeth Bennet, Austen’s heroine, believes herself to be a very shrewd judge of character, but her pride allows herself to fall victim to her own set of prejudices.

The novel can be divided into three parts, structured around Lizzy’s learning process. In the first part, Lizzy immediately shows her prejudice towards __________________________________
This may be partly understandable due to his proud and haughty manner at the ____________, which is indicated by his supercilious assessment of Elizabeth as ______________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

She is further taken in, however, by ___________________, whose lies further convince Lizzy of her soundness of judgement (chapter 18): __________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Lizzy is not the only character who displays prejudice against Mr Darcy. Society similarly makes their mind up about him (chapter 3): ________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Unsurprisingly, Mrs Bennet also decides that Darcy is disagreeable: ______________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
This is ironic, especially when we consider Mrs Bennet’s behaviour, both in public and private, which almost destroys Jane’s prospects with Mr Bingley. Mrs Bennet also rapidly changes her mind on hearing of Darcy’s proposal to Elizabeth.

Elizabeth must learn the truth, not only about Wickham and Darcy, but also about her own pride and prejudice. This is revealed after she has received Darcy’s letter in the pivotal chapter _____________, which marks the beginning of her ‘re-education’ (select a quotation from this chapter):

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Elizabeth isn’t the only character guilty of pride and just as she must learn about ‘herself’, so must Mr Darcy discover the effects of his snobbish, proud manner. He admits to Lizzy in chapter 58, after all misunderstandings have been cleared up between them, that his proud behaviour was ____________________________

Pride and prejudice almost prevents the two main characters from marrying, but the importance of the two themes informs almost every aspect of the novel. Lady Catherine de Bourgh’s pride prejudices her against the thought of Darcy ever marrying below his class:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Furthermore, Lydia’s thoughtless behaviour prejudices society against the possibility that her sisters will ever marry. This is articulated through the snobbish, gleefully patronising attitude of Mr Collins’ letter in chapter 48:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Elizabeth and Darcy overcome both pride and prejudice, with the result that there is a happy ending for all. Lydia finds a kind of respectability, even if she is doomed to a lifetime of insecurity and unhappiness; while Darcy realises that his feelings for Elizabeth can overcome those toward her family. Each has learned the error of their reliance on first impressions.