Sample questions on *Pride and Prejudice*  
AQA English Literature B (Unit 1)

**Question format**

a) A particular portion of the novel is mentioned for you to discuss specifically.
   i) A general question about the extract.
   ii) A question about the author’s craft
   iii) A question about different readings

You will need to write about character, themes and plot as shown in the extract.

Make sure you focus on the cited portion as well as the novel as a whole.

Try to avoid talking about plot and character. Just concentrate on the effect the author is trying to create.

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a) Look at Chapter 1 and answer the following questions:
   i) What different attitudes toward marriage are revealed in this chapter?
   ii) How does Austen establish the characters of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet?
   iii) Some readers see this novel as a weak attempt to subvert the marriage model and the role of women. Do you think it has a feminist agenda?

b) Look again at Chapter 4 and answer the following questions:
   i) What is revealed about the characters of Jane and Elizabeth in this chapter?
   ii) Write about Austen’s narrative method in this chapter.
   iii) Some readers see this novel as having a particular class-bias. Do you think social status is valued too highly in this novel?

c) Look again at Chapter 10 and answer the following questions:
   i) What does this chapter reveal about the characters of Bingley and Darcy?
   ii) How does Austen create tension in this chapter, particularly with regard to the relationship between Darcy and Elizabeth?
   iii) Some readers point to this chapter as the justification for Bingley’s later abandonment of Jane. Do you think his later actions and his ideas presented in this chapter coincide with or contradict each other?
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d) Look again at Chapter 15 and answer the following questions:
   i) What is revealed of the character and attitudes of Mr. Collins in this chapter?
   ii) How does Austen use humour in this chapter?
   iii) It can be argued that manners play an essential role in the society depicted in this novel. Do you think manners inhibit interactions in this novel or appropriately regulate them?

e) Look again at Chapter 16 and answer the following questions:
   i) What is revealed about the characters of Wickham and Elizabeth in this chapter?
   ii) Comment on Austen’s narrative technique in this chapter.
   iii) Some readers consider Elizabeth to be an unrealistically infallible character. Would you agree?

f) Look again at Chapters 19–20 and answer the following questions:
   i) What does Austen tell us about the institution of marriage in these chapters?
   ii) How does Austen’s method of writing make these chapters interesting to the reader?
   iii) What do you think is interesting about the position of women in this novel?

g) Look again at Chapter 29 and answer the following questions:
   i) What does this chapter tell us about social status in this novel?
   ii) Write about the language and structure of this chapter.
   iii) Some readers see this novel as endorsing class stratification; would you agree?

h) Look again at Chapter 35 and answer the following questions:
   i) What does this chapter reveal about the actions and character of Darcy?
   ii) Write about Austen’s narrative style in this chapter.
   iii) Some readers assert that Darcy’s character in this chapter is contradictory to that which we have seen before. Would you agree?