

TEST D'ENTREE EN SECTION INTERNATIONALE  
AMERICAINE  
LYCEE ANDRE ARGOUGES, GRENOBLE– SESSION 2016.

**PART I: Reading comprehension**

(The first two pages of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, published in 1813)

When there is no specific number of words indicated, you should give a short answer.
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**General understanding and main ideas**

- 1- Read the text a first time then say briefly what your first impression was (about 30 words).

**Read the text again and answer the following questions.**

- 2- What do we learn about the Bennet family? (members, social status, where they live...)
- 3- What do we learn about Mr. Bingley?
- 4- In Mrs Bennet's opinion, what should a suitable husband be like ?
- 5- In her opinion, what is a young woman's main advantage in order to get a suitable husband?

**Characterization, irony and the author's intentions**

- 6- What is Mrs. Bennet obsessed with ?
- 7- A- Contrast the way Mr and Mrs Bennet speak. (Who speaks more? About what? Using what tone ?...)  
B- What does that reveal about Mrs Bennet's personality?  
C- What does that reveal about Mr. Bennet's personality?  
(about 60 words for question 7)
- 8- Compare Mr and Mrs Bennet. On what points do they differ entirely?
- 9- At the end of the passage why does Mr Bennet suggest his daughters should visit Mr Bingley on their own (from line 32 to 34).
- 10- Pick out and quote three instances of irony at work in the passage.
- 11- Which character does the narrator criticize more? Justify your answer.
- 12- Whose point of view in general do the first two paragraphs express? Which character's point of view in particular?
- 13- Now that you have analyzed the beginning of the novel, try to imagine what its main theme is.

**Help :**

**Rightful** (line 5) = when someone has a legal or moral right to have or to do something.

**A chaise and four** (line 18) = a carriage pulled by four horses.

**Michaelmas** (line 19) = 29th of September, date when the rent is due for the term.

**PART II: Writing assignment** – choose **ONE** subject. Write about 250 words.

a- Imagine the first encounter between Mr. Bingley and the Bennets' daughters.

**Or**

b- Imagine the scene when Mrs Bennet tells her daughters they are going to pay a visit to Mr Bingley.

# PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

## CHAPTER I

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 neighbourhood, 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!”

“How so? how can it affect them?”

“My dear Mr Bennet,” replied his wife, “how can you be so tiresome! You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them.”

“Is that his design in settling here?”

“Design! nonsense, how can you talk so! But it is very likely that he *may* fall in love with one of them, and therefore you must visit him as soon as he comes.”

“I see no occasion for that. You and the girls may go, or you may send them by themselves, which perhaps will be still better; for, as you are as handsome as any of them, Mr Bingley might like you the best of the party.”

“My dear, you flatter me. I certainly *have* had my share of beauty, but I do not pretend to be anything extraordinary now. When a woman has five grown up daughters, she ought to give over thinking of her own beauty.”

(*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, published in 1813)