During the novel the opinion of Anne’s family plays a pivotal part in who she values as a potential husband, do you think this is still true today and are her family’s requirements in a suitor still important?

Why do you think in the ending Austen chose for Anne’s family to become accepting of Wentworth rather than Anne to be with Wentworth against her families wishes? Do you think if Austen had shown Anne happily married to Wentworth without the approval of her family then it would have made a stronger statement?

What do you think was the main hinderance in Anne and Wentworth reaffirming their love sooner?

In the end Anne assures Wentworth that she believes that the advice for their separation was right. Why do you think Anne believes that her breaking of the engagement was correct and what do you think she believes that her and Wentworth have gained from their time apart?

The life of Naval officers is prevalent in the novel, why do you think Austen chose to fixate on this particular occupation?

Do you think any of the female characters are shown as empowering, if so which ones and why?

Do you think Lady Russell was a positive or negative influence on Anne’s life?

Captain Benwick’s engagement to Louisa is seen as a shock, especially after his mourning of his previous fiancé, do you think that Benwick’s feeling for his previous fiancé were as strong as he first suggests? Do you think the second engagement is a coping mechanism or do you think he has recovered?

Discuss Anne’s relationship with Mrs Smith, do you think Anne trusts her insight into Mr Elliot and why?