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# REVISION QUESTIONS

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1. 'The narrative of all her novels is composed of such common occurrences as may have fallen under the observation of most folks.' How far is this comment of Sir Walter Scott's applicable to the plot of *Mansfield Park*, and what are the implications of this?
2. 'Fanny Price is the least interesting of all the heroines' (D.W. HARDING). What are your own opinions on the heroine of the novel?
3. 'Mansfield is governed by an authority all too fallible.' Discuss this comment of Lionel Trilling's with particular reference to the characters of Sir Thomas and Mrs Norris.
4. Discuss the importance of everyday objects in the world of the novel.
5. 'God made the country, and man made the town.' (W. COWPER). What conflict do you find in the novel between urban and rural values?
6. 'Her light, bright, and sparkling comedy criticises while it diverts' (BARBARA HARDY). Examine three passages from the novel where comedy and criticism operate together.
7. With special reference to the visit to Sotherton (Chapters 9-10), discuss Jane Austen's ability to arrange characters into groups.
8. It has been said that the ending of the novel is too deliberately contrived. Would you agree or disagree with this view?
9. Show how the lives of the inhabitants of Mansfield Park are affected by the rehearsals for *Lovers' Vows*.
10. 'Jane Austen herself as narraor plays a . . . very large part indeed' (W.A. CRAIK). Outline what part you believe the narrator plays in the novel's structure.

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# FURTHER READING

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- David Cecil, *A Portrait of Jane Austen* (London : Constable, 1978).
- R.W. Chapman (ed.), *Jane Austen's Letters* (Oxford University Press 1932, revised edition 1959).
- W.A. Craik, *Jane Austen: The Six Novels* (London: Methuen, 1965).
- Barbara Hardy, *A Reading of Jane Austen* (London: Athlone Press, 1979).
- F.B. Pinion, *A Jane Austen Companion* (London: Macmillan, 1973).
- B.C. Southam (ed.), - *Jane Austen, Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice and Mansfield Park: A Casebook* (London: Macmillan, 1976).
- R. Wurdnam (ed.), *Jane Austen: Mansfield Park* (London: Macmillan, 1984). (This text of the novel is specifically intended for those reading it for the first time.)