

Task 2 Possible answers

	Meaning
For want of asking	Just because you didn't ask... (see context of the sentence) Mr. Martin didn't want to miss the opportunity by not asking ('for want of asking').
Upon my word!	I swear!
Connect yourself well	Establish connections/ relationships with people in good social situations. In this case, marry a person with higher social status (and money)
Pray do.	Please do it.
Be left quite to your own powers	Do something without anybody's help.

Task 3 Key

a. What is the main purpose of the letter?
It is a marriage proposal.
b. What is Emma's opinion of the language and style of the letter?
'a very good letter', 'There were not merely no grammatical errors', 'the language, though plain, was strong and unaffected', 'It was short, but expressed good sense, warm attachment, liberality, propriety, even delicacy of feeling'. 'it is not the style of a woman', 'too strong and concise; not diffuse enough for a woman'.
c. What is Emma's opinion of the writer of the letter?
'a sensible man' 'thinks strongly and clearly—and when he takes a pen in hand', 'his thoughts naturally find proper words'. 'Vigorous, decided, with sentiments to a certain point, not coarse'.

Task 5 Key

	True or False?
1. Jane Austen was already famous during her lifetime.	FALSE
2. The main objective of the exhibition is to show people how witty Austen was in real life.	TRUE

3. The letters reveal quite a lot of Austen's personality.	TRUE
4. Austen did a lot of cross-writing in her letters. This is when you change your mind and cross out what you wrote before.	FALSE
5. The letters directly influenced the novels.	FALSE
6. Some people Austen met in real life are similar to some characters that come out in the novels.	TRUE
7. Seeing the manuscripts helps you to get to know Austen as a person.	TRUE
8. The curators feel it is a privilege but also a great challenge to create an exhibition about Austen because she is such a well-known and loved writer.	TRUE

Task 6 – Key

Activity 1

She had heard, as soon as she got back to Mrs Goddard's, that Mr Martin had been there an hour before, and finding she was not at home, nor particularly expected, had left a little parcel for her from one of his sisters, and gone away; and on opening this parcel, she had actually found, besides the two songs which she had lent Elizabeth to copy, a letter to herself ...

Activity 2

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and **(1) had lived** nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.

Her mother **(2) had died** too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses; and her place **(3) had been supplied** by an excellent woman as governess, who **(4) had fallen** little short of a mother in affection.

Sixteen years had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, less as a governess than a friend, very fond of both daughters, but particularly of Emma. Between *them* it was more the intimacy of sisters. Even before Miss Taylor **(5) had ceased** to hold the nominal office of governess, the mildness of her temper **(6) had** hardly **allowed** her to impose any restraint; and the shadow of authority being now long passed away, they **(7) had been living** together as friend and friend very mutually attached, and Emma doing just what she liked; highly esteeming Miss Taylor's judgment, but directed chiefly by her own.

Listening – tapescript

- Declan:** We know so little about Jane Austen... She's never been out of print since 1833 and of course she has never benefited from any of that success or fame, even though she said, 'I write only for fame' ... uh, she was not the beneficiary of that.
- Clare:** Yes ... Austenmania ... she didn't live to see that.
- Declan:** Perhaps that's a good thing.
- Clare:** Yeah ...
- Declan:** The exhibition title gives a lot away: *A Woman's Wit*. And that is the main focus of the exhibition. What we want to do is to demonstrate that through her letters, because everyone knows that in her novels ... uh ... but she was a very witty person in her letters. And the letters are very revealing of her character generally.
- Clare:** And the physical for the letters is quite remarkable to most people ... Generally she only used one sheet, which meant she had a go on for more than four pages, 'cause she would fold the paper in half, she did cross-writing, so she would turn the paper and write across her own writings, up-side down, between the her own lines, so they really are like puzzles. There is a lot to figure out. But the letters are full of fantastic moments and you see, well they didn't directly influence the novels...certainly the kinds of characters she has in her own...in a small village, you see them come out in the novels.
- Declan:** The timelessness is in the characterisation but also if you think about the way Austen constructed her novels, there is real mastery there and that's way being able to come here and see the manuscripts first-hand, up close, puts you in a position of intimacy with her that you don't get from reading a fiction... you admire her fiction but you don't get to know Austen as a person...and you get to know her through the letters and to see her hand on the page. You can see how consummate craftsman she was, craftswoman I guess...uh...you really see her revising her work and making the sentences absolutely balanced and right. She clearly is one of the greatest novelists that has ever lived and yet shrouded in mystery... in a way that the lives of, say, Shakespeare and Milton are not. And it is that essential 'unknownability' of Austen that I think that has the strong appeal for me and so to be able to...you know... handle the manuscripts by this author who is so adored and so, you know, incredibly admired by her readers... uh...it was just an incredible privilege and we got great excitement and... and... you know...sort of...it really... it spurred us on.
- Clare:** It's intimidating though, to work on an author who's loved...you feel you have to do right by her and...and... I think...I think we have.