The Importance of Being Earnest

Oscar Wilde

Background Information
1. Irish
2. mother, her
3. Oxford
4. good
5. poems
6. beauty
7. children
8. novel
9. not always
10. French
11. divorced
12. light-hearted
13. several
14. twice

Multiple Choice
1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. c
6. a
7. c
8. d
9. b
10. b
11. b

Word Focus
1. wickedness
2. equality
3. hypocrisy
4 carelessness
5 pleasure
6 ignorance
7 romance
8 amazement

**Complete the sentences with one of the verbs from the table.**

1 romantic
2 careless
3 ignorance
4 pleasure
5 wicked
6 hypocrisy
7 equality
8 amazed

**Vocabulary: Negative prefixes**

1 disapproves
2 unwell
3 unbelievable
4 unfashionable
5 unpleasant
6 indecisive, misbehaviour
7 unpacks
8 untrue
9 displease
10 unexpectedly, inconvenient
11 disliking

**Vocabulary: Opposites**

1 b
2 d
3 b
4 b
5 a
6 b
Vocabulary: Formal language
1 Papa
2 Good heavens!
3 one
4 My dear fellow
5 Let us
6 scoundrel
7 It would be a pleasure
8 I beg your pardon
9 dine
10 perfectly disgraceful

Useful Phrases
1 runs in families
2 blessing in disguise
3 bitter trials
4 call a spade a spade
5 bores her to death
6 come of age
7 out of the question
8 in her own hands

Grammar: Question tags
1 is it not?
2 can't I?
3 won't you?
4 does it?
5 may I not?
6 don't you?

Which two of the question tags above are old-fashioned and formal?
1 may I not?
2 is it not?
How could they be said in a less formal, more modern way?
1 can’t I?
2 isn’t it?

Now add modern question tags to the following questions.
1 are you?
2 doesn’t she?
3 will he?
4 isn’t it?
5 can you?
6 didn’t he?

Grammar: Relative clauses
1 Miss Prism left a bag which/that contained a baby at Victoria station.
2 Thomas Cardew, who found Jack as a baby, made him the guardian of Cecily. OR Thomas Cardew found Jack, who he made the guardian of Cecily, as a baby.
3 Lady Bracknell does not want her daughter to marry Jack, who has no known relations.
4 Algernon writes down the address of Jack’s country home, where Cecily lives.
5 Cecily is frightened of meeting Ernest, whose behaviour is wicked.
6 Cecily keeps a diary which she writes her secrets in.
7 Jack refuses to consent to Cecily’s marriage, which means she cannot marry until she is thirty-five.
8 Jack’s father, whose name was Ernest, baptized his son with the same name.