**1. Some critics assert that the novel is a tragedy or about a tragedy. In 120-140 words, explain how the novel can be seen as such: In what sense is it a tragedy, and whose tragedy is it?**

*Things Fall Apart* can be seen as being Okonkwo’s tragedy. Okonkwo grew up poor and he blames his father for being weak. He was determined to be better than his father and to rise up in life. This led to him being one of the best wrestlers in his village and becoming a successful yam farmer with a big compound and three wives. At this point Okonkwo is a respected, high ranking member of his community. Throughout the book, Okonkwo is plagued with tragedies. First, he kills his adopted son which leaves him heartbroken. Then, he accidentally kills the son of an elder at that elder’s funeral which results in him being exiled for seven years. Finally, when he returns from exile he discovers that white missionaries had arrived and converted many of the villagers to Christianity. After killing a white government official and failing to get the support of his people, Okonkwo realized he was too late and hanged himself.

**2. The novel is rich with references to and manifestations of myth and religion. Choose a chapter (or a scene, a situation...) in which myth and/or religion play(s) a major role in shaping the course of events in that chapter. Then, in a paragraph of 120-140 words, explain the importance of your choice to our understanding of the novel as a whole.**

**3. In 100-120 words, explain the importance of the setting to our understanding of the characters and their destinies: What is it in the setting that we need to know in order to understand the characters and what happens to them?**