**Chapter 21**

1. Compare these first-generation New Englanders with their recent English

ancestors and with their future New England descendants.

The first generation New Englanders are dressed in joy and luxury. They are different from their descendants who dressed in the puritan grey and boring garments.

2. What distressing news does Hester receive from the ship captain?

The ship captain tells Hester that Chillingworth will be also coming along with her ride to freedom, showing that her ride to freedom is not a ride to freedom anymore.

3. In addition to providing more information, what other purpose does this chapter serve?

The chapter transitions into the climax.

**Chapter 22**

1. What is Hawthorne’s point about the governors’ ability to govern? Does he seem

to find fault with them? Why or why not?

Hawthorne points out that the governors have a strong ability to govern, as they are respected by the people.

2. What is the source of Dimmsdale’s apparent new strength?

The source of Dimmesdale’s apparent new strength is the hope that Hester have provided him, the hope that he have been searching for in the past seven years, the only cure to his sickness.

3. What does Pearl want from Dimmsdale?

Pearl wants Dimmesdale to openly embrace her and Hester to show his sinned nature.

4. Explain the remarks, “The sainted minister in the church! The woman of the

scarlet letter in the market-place!”

This is a strong contrast showing the judgment from the puritan society. Though having the exact same sin, the townspeople consideres Hester to be extremely sinned while the see the Minister as sainted. This shows how position in the society affects the public’s image on an individual.

5. What is Mistress Hibbins saying about the people of Salem Village?

6. What clues has Hawthorne offered his reader to prepare him or her for the

revelation of the scarlet letter on his chest?

Hawthorne ends the chapter with a connection between Hester and Dimmesdale’s sin, saying how surprising it would be for an individual to expect them to have the same sin.

**Chapter 23**

1. Many critics believe the novel is structures around the three scaffold scenes: the ones in chapters 2 and 12 and this one. Explain how each fits the typical plot scheme of conflict, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion.

The first scaffolding scene introduces the situation, and is thus the conflict. The second scaffolding scene is the rising action as Dimmesdale is less able to hold onto the pressure, and is what essentially caused Hester to come up with a plan of escape. This scaffolding scene is the climax, as Dimmesdale finally reveals his sin to the public.

2. Why does Dimmsdale stand “on the very proudest eminence of superiority”

before the crowd?

Dimmesdale stand on t he very proudest eminence of superiority because he is voicing his opinion to the public about Hester. He is also taking responsibility of his actions. His pride taken for an action that should have been shameful shows that Dimmesdale is slowly becoming Hester at the beginning of the book. Hester on the other side have became more hesitant,

3. What does Chillingworth mean when he says, “There was no one place...where

thou couldst have escaped me—save on this very scaffold!”

Chillingworth have been torturing Dimmesdale based on the guilt that he feels on the actions that he have committed. The only way for Dimmesdale to save himself was to get rid of his guilt, which can only happen my him revealing his guilt to the world. Thus, as the scaffold is the place that Hester have been shamed for her sin, Dimmesdale must take up the same responsibility at this place as well in order to untie this knot.

4. In what way is Dimmsadale’s sin worse than Hester’s? Of Hester, Chillingworth,

and Dimmsdale, whose sin is the worst? Why?

Dimmesdale’s sin is worse that Hester, because Hester is took the consequences of her sin, while Dimmesdale hid from the consequences of the sin. This itself is another sin that Dimmesdale have committed, and it is this sin that is troubling Dimmesdale for such a long time.

5. What accounts for the change in Pearl?

Dimmesdale’s action of revealing his secret is what accounts for the change in Pearl. As Dimmesdale is finally taking on his responsibility of the burden of the sins (Pearl is a symbol for their sin), Pearl finally accepts Dimmesdale.

**Chapter 24**

1. What theories are given about the scarlet letter imprinted in the minister’s flesh?

Some say that Dimmesdale started torturing himself seven years ago, which is what left the mark on his flesh. Others say that it is Chillingworth who used magic to cast it on him.  
2. Why does Hawthorne leave the origin of Dimmsdale’s mark ambiguous?

The power of ambiguities is that it invites the reader to work their imagination. This not makes the entire story seem more reasonable, but also allows the readers to apply their own reasoning of what have happened, and therefore the story more relatable to each individual reader. Making Dimmesdale’s mark ambiguous allows the readers to use their own imagination to fill in the reason of the origin of their mark, which thus betters their interpretation of the theme.

1. What happens to Chillingworth? What does he give Pearl?

Chillingworth gives a lot of his property to Pearl. This shows that he have forgiven Hester’s sin at the end of his life, and have ended on a good note.

1. What becomes of Pearl?

Pearl have grown up, and move with Hester to another country. After Hester returned, Pearl have been constantly sending Hester luxurious stuff, showing that Pearl have grown into resembling the Hester at the beginning of the book.

5. Why do you suppose Hester returns to Salem? What might be Hawthorne’s point

about sin, repentance, and redemption?

The scarlet letter represents Hester’s sin, which is what connects Hester with Dimmesdale. This is why Hester have returned to Salem. Since Hester’s sin is her connection with Dimmesdale, she relies on her repentance to get the redemption that she needs to continue living.

6. Why would Hawthorne allow the story to end with Hester and Dimmesdale being

remembered so ignominiously?

It shows that the puritan society’s lack of understanding on situations before placing their judgment. While their tombstone is placed apart in the real life, the share the common stone, showing that they are connected in heaven. Gods allows them to be together, but the puritan that claims are fallowing the order of god does not let them to be together.