**The realities of Jane Austen’s society.**

British Library \* Professor Kathryn Sutherland, Oxford University

**Video tasks: Watch the videos and fill in the gaps.**

*A. Gender and Morality*

We think of Jane Austen as a woman’s novelist looking at the world from a woman’s point of 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.Her heroines are 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, attractive, they’re intelligent, they’re articulate but she’s a fairly harsh moralist. She doesn’t allow them to 3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ individual courses of behavior and she doesn’t encourage 4.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and she doesn’t encourage 5.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Many of her novels include 6.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in which the heroine is educated by the hero.

The realities of Jane Austen’s society is that women have much less freedom for 7.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than men. They didn’t have a career, they didn’t have a chance to go to university, their male 8.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_had both.

The rules were very strict for women of this class, middle class and the 10.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

B. *Public and Private Space*

Very little social behaviour happens in private in this world - there are always 11.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Everybody has very little freedom, because we’re all being watched by somebody. In this half public private space our actions are always subject to 12.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to conversation – to a kind of 13.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and judgment.

*Courtship (Flirting) and Dancing*

Young women and young men had very 14.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_opportunities for courtship and for meeting under proper 15.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. One reason that Jane Austen uses the dance so often in her novels – a dance or a ball, is because the dance floor itself allowed young men and women a certain amount of 16.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to 17.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Dancing with a partner a certain number of times, was a way of 18.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you were interested. It was a chance to flirt. These are highly 19.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dances, very little opportunity for 20.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bodily contact.

On the other hand, dancing together was one of the signals you sent to both your partner and to everyone else, that you were interested.