**Chapters 1-2 Questions**

1. What accomplishments have helped to make Okonkwo a great man of the village?
2. Compare and contrast Okonkwo with his father, Unoka. Why do you think Okonkwo feels as he does toward his father?
3. Okonkwo is a wealthy man with status in Umuofia. What are the signs of his wealth?
4. How do the men of Umuofia decide what to do about the murder of a woman from their clan? What role do the women of Umuofia have in the decision?
5. Achebe tells us, “Among the Ibo . . . proverbs are the palm-oil with which words are eaten.” This statement itself is a proverb. How do you interpret it?

**Chapters 3-4 Questions**

1. What is the Week of Peace? What does Okonkwo do to break it and what action does the clan take?
2. Who is Nwoye and how does Okonkwo treat him? Describe the relationship between Nwoye and Ikemefuna.
3. Okonkwo’s first year as a farmer is difficult. How is the difficulty due to Okonkwo’s family history and how was it due to nature?
4. In a sentence or two, explain the concept of *chi*. What is the meaning of the proverb, “When a man says yes his *chi* says yes also?” What does Okonkwo mean when he says he challenged his *chi*?

**Chapters 5-6 Questions**

1. When is the Festival of the New Yam held? Explain Okonkwo’s reaction to the festival.
2. What causes Okonkwo to shoot at Ekwefi? What does this say about Okonkwo?
3. How do the Ibo treat the winner of the final wresting match? Why are the winners so revered?

**Chapter 7-8 Questions**

1. How long has Ikemefuna been with the family? Who decides his fate? What does Ezeudu tell Okonkwo about this decision?
2. In your opinion, did Ikemefuna know what was about to happen? What do Okonkwo’s actions reveal about his character?
3. How does Okonkwo feel about his daughter Ezinma? Why?
4. Describe the scene between Okonkwo and Obierika. Explain two things you learn about Ibo culture from this scene and two things about the characters.
5. Analyze Okonkwo’s idea of masculinity. Do you think Okonkwo’s ideas of masculinity are typical of Ibo society, or are they extreme?
6. At the end of the discussion among Okonkwo and his friends, what major historical event is foreshadowed? What peculiar belief about white people is expressed?

**Chapter 9-10 Questions**

1. Why does Ekwefi have a bitter attitude about life? Describe her relationship with Ezinma. What does Okonkwo do to help Ezinma?
2. An *ogbanje* is a changeling, a child who repeatedly dies and returns. How can humans defeat an *obanje’s* wickedness? What do these beliefs reveal about Ibo society?
3. Who are the judges in the legal case in Chapter 10, and how do they behave? Do you feel the judges’ decision is fair?
4. In your opinion, do the people of Umuofia know what is behind the *egwugwu* masks or not? Find textual evidence to support your answer.

**Chapter 11 Questions**

1. Achebe devotes several pages to Ekwefi’s folktale. Why do you think he chose to include the tale?
2. How does Okonkwo react when the priestess first makes her announcement? What actions does he take later and what do they show about his character?

**Chapter 12-13 Questions**

1. What does the priestess do with Ezinma after emerging from the cave?
2. What joyous ceremony takes place the day after the return from the cave? While preparing for ceremony, what do the men of Umuofia discuss at the market and what does this discussion show about them?
3. What sorrowful news does the drum announce?
4. What terrible accident occurs at the funeral and what happens to Okonkwo’s family as a result?
5. In your opinion, why did Achebe choose to end Part One the way he did? What aspects of the funeral ceremony make it possible for dangerous accidents to occur? How is this accident related to the infiltration of Western technology into a traditional culture?

**Part Two**

**Chapter 14-15**

1. How is Okonkwo a deviant in his tribe? How does the tribe react to Okonkwo?

2. What is the point of Uchendu’s lecture to Okonkwo? Does Uchendu’s view of women coincide with your earlier impressions of gender roles in this culture?

3. Summarize the story of Abame. What does this story say about the process of colonization?

4. How did the residents of Abame characterize the white man?

5. How was the Oracle’s prediction fulfilled?

**Chapter 16-17**

1. Why do you think Nwoye joins the missionaries? What events in the past do you think influenced his decision?

2. Why do the villagers think the missionaries are crazy? Does their reaction to the missionaries seem reasonable?

3. Why do the hymns appeal to some of the people?

4. How does the granting of land in the Evil Forest to the missionaries back-fire?

5. What does Okonkwo mean when he thinks, “Living fire begets cold, impotent ash.”?

**Chapter 18-19**

1. What are the osu? Why do they make excellent converts?

2. Why don’t traditional clan punishments have much effect on the new Christians?

3. Describe the incident concerning the python.

4. How do the names Okonkwo gives to his children reflect his attitude concerning his exile?

5. Why does Okonkwo make such a big feast before visiting Mbanta?

**Part Three**

**Chapters 20-22 Questions**

1. How has Umofia changed during Oknokwo’s exile? Give three specific examples.
2. How is Mr. Smith different from Mr. Brown? How are they similar?
3. How does Enoch spark a conflict in Umofia? What does the clan do about it?
4. According to Obierika, the clan could easily drive out two white men. Why then, does he feel the clan is falling apart?

**Chapters 23-25 Questions**

1. Why do you think the guards and messengers treat the men of Umuofia so badly? What do they do?

2. In what way do the court messengers take money dishonestly from Umuofia?

3. How does Achebe characterize the District Commissioner? How would you describe him?

4. At the end of Chapter 24, Okonkwo hears his clansmen asking, “Why did he do it?” What are they referring to, and why do you think he did it?

5. In the last paragraph of the novel, the point of view shifts although the narrative is still third-person. Whose point of view is shown in this paragraph? Why do you think Achebe makes this shift? What tone, or attitude, does Achebe adopt in this paragraph?