

$$f(x) = (1+b^2)x^2 + 2bx + 1$$

$$f'(x) = 2(1+b^2)x + 2b = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b}{(1+b^2)}$$

$$f''(x) = 2(1+b^2) > 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{-b}{1+b^2} \text{ is a minimum (local)}$$

$$f\left(\frac{-b}{1+b^2}\right) = m(b) = (1+b^2)\left(\frac{b^2}{(1+b^2)^2}\right) + 2b\left(\frac{-b}{1+b^2}\right) + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1+b^2}$$

As b varies

$m(b)$ lies in $(0, 1]$

Option (A)