

*QUESTIONS TO ACCOMPANY
JONATHAN SWIFT'S 'A MODEST PROPOSAL'*

Before reading

1. What does the title of the extract suggest to you?

After reading once

2. What is your initial reaction to this piece of writing? What is it about? What is the tone of the piece?

After reading twice

3. Approximately, in which period do you think this extract was written? Give reasons for your answer.
4. How does the structure of the piece help you understand its cultural and historical context?

9. Find examples of Swift's contrasting descriptions of rich and poor people. Look carefully at your examples; what is Swift subtly suggesting by his choice of words?

10. How does Swift draw you into his argument so that his ideas appear acceptable? At what point do you realise that Swift's suggestions are ludicrous?

11. Why is it possible to say that Swift's piece is more than parody?