

Sch. ELA 10  
Socratic Seminar Preparation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Define the word “modest.” With your definition of this word, how does that apply to Jonathan Swift essay proposal, “A Modest Proposal”? How is he using this word (literary device)?
  
2. By using irony, what is Swift implying with this boldfaced word “The number of souls in Ireland being usually reckoned one million and a half, of these I calculate there may be about two hundred thousand couples whose wives are **breeders...**” (584a).
  
3. In the following passage, what satirical statement does Swift’s attitude convey?  
    Infant’s flesh will be in season throughout the year, but more plentiful in March, and a little before and after, for we are told by a grave author, an eminent French physician, that fish being a prolific diet, there are more children born in Roman Catholic countries about nine months after Lent, than at any other season, therefore reckoning a year after Lent, the markets will be more glutted than usual, because the number of popish infants, is at least three to one in this kingdom, and therefore it will have one other collateral advantage by lessening the number of papists among us (584b-585a).
  
4. What is Swift’s tone in the first paragraph found on page 586a? How does this tone enhance the satirical effect of the essay?

