



Study Questions

Question 1: Compare and contrast two translations of any of these poems, perhaps taking one from the 19th century and one from more recent times. Many translations are in the public domain on sites such as www.perseus.tufts.edu, or use Google Books to access other translations. There is an excellent book of examples (*Juvenal in English* (edited by Martin W. Winkler: Penguin 2001) which may be available in libraries.

Question 2: Juvenal tells us that ‘indignation drives him to write poetry’ and that ‘it is difficult not to write satire’, suggesting that the poems are to some extent motivated by his own emotions. Explore the extent to which this can be valid and the extent to which he uses irony and parody to send up the speaker of the poems.

Question 3: Place Juvenal in the history of Satire through the ages, comparing and contrasting his work with that of:

Lucilius

Horace

Persius

Petronius (*Dinner with Trimalchio*)

Seneca (*Pumpkinification of Claudius*)

Swift

Pope

Question 4: How does Juvenal bear comparison and contrast with modern forms of social satire such as: *Have I Got News For You*, *Newzoids*, *Private Eye*?

Question 5: Examine the contribution of the metre to the success of these poems. Would they work just as well in prose?

Question 6: Analyse and criticise the argumentation of each of the three poems in this book.