

Contents

Time line	6
Introduction	8
1 Approaching the subject	11
What is satire?	11
Satire in English literature	13
Satire as a literary genre	15
Standing the test of time	16
The language of satire	16
Understanding satire in different contexts	17
<i>Assignments</i>	18
2 Approaching the texts	19
What does 'context' mean in relation to a text?	19
Combining knowledge of contexts with close reading	19
Contexts as keys	21
Linking contexts, subject and form in satirical texts	25
Recognising writers' attitudes to their subject matter	27
<i>Assignments</i>	30
3 Texts and extracts	31
Geoffrey Chaucer	31
from <i>The Canterbury Tales: General Prologue</i>	33
John Skelton	35
from <i>Colin Clout</i>	37
Ben Jonson	38
from <i>The Alchemist</i>	39
John Dryden	41
from <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i>	43
William Congreve	44
from <i>The Way of the World</i>	45

Jonathan Swift	46
'A Meditation upon a Broomstick'	49
from <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>	50
from <i>A Modest Proposal</i>	53
Alexander Pope	54
from <i>The Rape of the Lock</i>	57
from <i>Moral Essays</i> 'Epistle 4: On the Use of Riches'	58
from 'Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot'	59
William Hogarth	60
<i>Marriage A-la-Mode</i> 'The Countess's Morning Levee'	61
Jane Austen	62
from <i>Northanger Abbey</i>	63
Lord Byron	66
from <i>Don Juan</i>	69
Charles Dickens	70
from <i>Bleak House</i>	72
Arthur Hugh Clough	75
'The Latest Decalogue'	77
Mark Twain	78
from <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	80
E.E. Cummings	84
'next to of course god america i'	85
'a salesman is an it that stinks Excuse'	85
'ygUDuh'	86
Evelyn Waugh	86
from <i>Decline and Fall</i>	88
Joseph Heller	89
from <i>Catch-22</i>	91
Carol Ann Duffy	92
'Poet for Our Times'	93
'Making Money'	94
Steve Bell	95
'Righty Ho!'	96

4 Critical approaches	98
What does the word 'reading' mean?	98
The writer and the text	98
The reader and the text	98
Critical approaches in the 20th century	100
Critical approaches to some key satirical texts	102
<i>Assignments</i>	110
5 How to write about satirical texts	111
'The profitable discussion of literature'	111
Developing your own critical reading and writing	111
<i>Assignments</i>	114
6 Resources	118
Satire 'trails'	118
Further reading	120
Glossary	122
Index	125