

Liberty

Sample Page

Examine the varying uses of the word *liberty* in the play. Bearing in mind the 'Wilkes and Liberty' riots in London and that both the American War of Independence and the French Revolution were brewing, how political is the play?



Have a look at "*The Marriage of Figaro*" by Beaumarchais, in which the aristocrats are outwitted by their servants. This 'political' play was banned in France for several years before its first performance in 1784.

In the year 1773...

How satirical or even dangerous might it have been considered for Goldsmith to depict disobedient servants and gentry disguised as, or mistaken for, servants?

Were the ruling class in Britain complacent about the threat of revolution, or was the social system less polarised?

What was the social mix of the audience for the first production of "She Stoops to Conquer" in London?

