English 1101, Reading Jane Austen Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Exercise in Monetary Values

Monetary Values in Austen’s Time

Locate the course web page and follow the link for the “Historical interpretation of monetary values.” Answer all questions in terms of modern (2018) dollars.

1. When *Evelina* is published in January 1778 the price is seven shillings and sixpence sewed, or nine shillings bound. How much additional did the binding cost? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. At Christmastide in 1780, the clergyman James Woodforde visits the poor in his parish and gives each family 6 *d*. If there are 44 such families, how much does he donate?

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3. A girl’s boarding school in 1792 charges 18 guineas a year for board, an extra 10/6 for tea per quarter, and a guinea per quarter for dancing lessons. How much will it cost you to send your daughter for a year (three quarters) with tea and dancing lessons?

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4. In 1796 the twenty-one-year-old Jane Austen subscribes to Fanny Burney’s *Camilla* for one and a half guineas. If the *Times* costs sixpence at this time, how many newspapers could she have bought instead of the novel?

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5. In Boulder, WY, a yearling quarter horse, Miss Invictus, is for sale now at $6,500. Fletcher, the friend of John Thorpe, has a horse allegedly worth 40 guineas in 1798 (p. 51). Which costs more?

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6. Mrs. Allen claims that the muslin for her gown cost 9 *s.*/yd (p. 16). If a gown requires five yards, how much did the fabric cost, and could you buy the fabric today for that?

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7. Henry Tilney’s mother, Miss Drummond, is said to have inherited £20,000 (p. 46), whereas Catherine is promised just £3000 (p. 173). Invested at 5%, how much less income a year would Catherine’s fortune get than her deceased mother-in-law?

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8. In 1798 Fanny Dashwood estimates Mrs. Dashwood (in her forties) might live more than 15 years with an annuity of £100/yr. John replies, “Fifteen years! My dear Fanny, her life cannot be worth half that purchase” (p. 11). How much is his stepmother worth to John?

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9. If Mrs. Dashwood inherits £7000 (p. 10), and each of her daughters has a legacy of £1000, what is their combined annual income, if their investments can return 5%?

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10. If Mr. Collins can invest Elizabeth Bennet's £1000 legacy at 5% instead of 4% as her father has done in 1811 (p. 73), how much is Mr. Collins worth to her per year?

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Extra credit: Sir John estimates Willougby’s income from Combe Magna at £700/yr (p. 54) whereas Edward Ferrars stands to earn just £200/yr from the living of Delaford (p. 204). How much more is at Willougby’s disposal per year than Edward’s?

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