



Read the following sources, and in your notes:

- Make a list of the food and drink that are 'high status' and those that are 'low status'
- Suggest what claims we can make about how acceptable this behaviour was in the Roman world

Extracts from Juvenal *Satire 5*

“ [...] All your great houses are full of bad-tempered slaves. See with what a grumble another of them has handed you a bit of hard bread that you can scarce break in two, or lumps of dough that have turned mouldy; stuff that will exercise your grinders but into which no tooth can gain entry. For Virro himself a delicate loaf is reserved, white as snow, and made of the finest flour. Be sure to keep your hands off it; take no liberties with the bread-basket! If you are presumptuous enough to take a piece, there will be someone there to ask that you put it down; "What, Sir Sassiness? Will you please fill yourself from your proper tray, and learn the colour of your own bread?"

[...] See now that huge lobster being served to my lord, all garnished with asparagus; ... Before you is placed, on a tiny plate, a crab hemmed in by half an egg; a fit banquet for the dead. The host soaks his fish in Venafran oil; the sickly greens offered to you, poor devil, will smell like lamp oil ...

My lord will have a mullet dispatched from Corsica or the Rocks of Tauromenium [Sicily]; ... For you is reserved an eel, first cousin to a water-snake, or maybe a pike mottled with ice-spots; he too was bred on Tiber's banks and was inclined to find his way into the middle of the Subura [a crowded lower class area of Rome], fattening himself among its flowing sewers.

[...] Before Virro is put a huge goose's liver; a fowl as big as a goose, and a boar, piping hot. ... Then will come truffles, if it is spring-time ... ”

Translation adapted from Ramsey

**Martial, Epigram 3.60**

“ Since these days I dine with you at my own cost *
Why is not the same dinner served to me as to you ?
You take oysters fattened in the Lucrine lake,
I cut my mouth sucking a mussel through a hole in the shell;
You get mushrooms, I take pig-fungi;
You tackle turbot, but I have brill.
Golden with fat, a turtle-dove fills you up with its bloated rump;
There is set before me a magpie that has died in its cage.
Why do I dine without you Ponticus, when I am dining with you?
The dole has gone: let that count for something; let us eat the same meal. ”

**Previously Martial's patron would have offered him dinner to supplement the monetary 'dole' Martial was given as his client. The monetary dole was stopped by the Emperor Domitian.*

Translation adapted from Ker

Pliny, Letter 2.6

“ I came to be dining ... with a man who thought he combined elegance with economy, but who appeared to me to be both mean and lavish, for he set the best dishes before himself and a few others and treated the rest to cheap and scrappy food. He had apportioned the wine in small decanters of three different kinds ... He had one kind for himself and us, another for his less distinguished friends - for he is a man who classifies his acquaintances - and a third for his own freedmen and those of his guests.

The man who sat next to me noticed this and asked me if I approved of it. I said no. "Then how do you arrange matters?" he asked. "I set the same before all," I answered, "for I invite my friends to dine not to grade them one above the other, and those whom I have set at equal places on my couches I treat as equals in every respect." "What! even the freedmen?" he said. "Yes," I replied, "for then I regard them as my guests at table, not as freedmen."

He went on: "It must cost you a lot." "Not at all," said I. "Then how do you manage it?" "It's easily done; because my freedmen do not drink the same wine as I do, but I drink the same that they do." And, by Jove, the fact is that if you aren't greedy it is not at all horribly expensive to entertain a number of people with the same food as you eat yourself. ”

Translation adapted from Firth