

The Courtauld

A Closer Look – Asking questions

A Bar at the Folies-Bergère, Édouard Manet (1882)

This activity encourages learners to formulate answers to some of the questions below, imagining what life may be like for the barmaid in the painting, Suzon. Learners can answer individually, or discuss the answers in pairs or small groups. They may wish to write some more questions they could ask her.

It can also be used as a role-play activity, where one person pretends to be Suzon or a customer, or someone swinging through the air on a trapeze!

Questions for Suzon:

- Are you happy?
- Are you tired?
- Do you like your job?
- Do you get paid a lot of money?
- Are the people friendly?
- What are you thinking about that man?
- Is your dress too tight?
Can you breathe?!
- Is it very hot?
- Is it noisy?
- Do you like the music?
- How old are you?
- What is your favourite hobby?



Édouard Manet (1832-1883), A Bar at the Folies-Bergère, 1882, The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust) © The Courtauld