Survival Guide for Jane Austen’s World

The Class System
- The nobility/aristocracy (explain usage of “sir” and “lady”)
- The gentry
- Others: businessmen, army and naval officers, clergymen
- Commoners
- Defining “condescension”

Ladies’ Limited Rights and Roles
- Living as a lady (voting, education, profession, money & property, the governess, responsibilities in the home)
- The “accomplished” lady
- The feminist outlook/women’s movement
- Fashion

Dancing & Other Leisure Activities
- Dancing as a dating game
- Knowing how to dance
- Balls (formal vs. informal, public vs. private)
- What to wear
- Dancing etiquette
- Cards, tea, touring country houses

Being a Man in a Man’s World
- Raising a gentleman (education, profession)
- Inheritance (primogeniture and entailment)
- Privilege of being the eldest son (and supporting younger sons)
- Fashion

Dating, Courtship & Marriage
- Eligibility
- “Coming out” as a young lady
- Rules of dating
- The art of flirting
- Together and alone time (dos and don’ts)
- Correspondence
- Making and breaking an engagement
- Motivations for marrying (love, money)
- Elopements
- Breaking with tradition (refusals, choosing not to marry, never being asked)

Manners & Etiquette
- Becoming a gentleman or a lady
- Introductions and greetings
- Manner of address
- Visiting
- Knowing one’s place and rank

Religious and Political Climate
- Church of England (Anglicanism)
- Clerical characters
- Seven Deadly Sins (which exist in Pride?)
- The Georgian Word: candor over prudishness, realists
- Trouble at home and across the channel (fearing French invasion and reeling from revolutions and riots at home)