“Dodgy questions” on the Vikings

**To what extent did Viking culture objectify women?**

*This is far too academic a question and not worded appropriately for the age group. There is a legitimate historical question to be asked about the role of women in Viking society but this is not it.*

**What can the funerary practices of Danish culture add to our knowledge of Dark Age anthropology?**

*Even worse as an academic question which would be appropriate for degree level or above.*

**How fair were Anglo-Saxon punishments?**

*On the face of it a valid, accessible and interesting question however it risks an anachronistic answer because of course to modern eyes Anglo-Saxon punishments were manifestly unfair thus judging past people by our standards. A better question might be How fair did Anglo-Saxon punishments appear to the Anglo-Saxons? This asks pupils to make a judgement about past people in terms of their own values.*

**How do Vikings make you feel?**

*Not an historical question at all although one that could be asked in PSHE or Philosophy for children. The feeling of a person in the present based on entirely subjective emotion is neither here nor there historically. You could still look at the issue of the emotional response to the Vikings through better questions such as What did the Victorians think of the Vikings? or How do people view the Vikings today? These would require pupils to look at the evidence on which views of the Vikings are or were based.*