Servants in Victorian Times

Look at these sources about Victorian servants. What can you learn about the treatment of Victorian servants from these?

Source 1:

Wanted,

In a Gentleman’s Family, two miles from Hastings, a good cook, who understands baking and a dairy. She must be a respectable, trustworthy woman, with a very good personal character. About 30 years of age. A Dissenter preferred. —For name and address, apply at the office of this paper.

Source 2:

In the circles can you rate these 4 servants in order of importance? (1 being most important)

Source 3:

Rules for Servants

- Never let your voice be heard by the ladies and gentlemen of the house, except when necessary, and then as little as possible.

- Always ‘give room’ if you meet one of your employers or betters on the stairs.

- Always stand still and keep your hands quiet when speaking or being spoken to and look at the person speaking to you.

- Servants should never offer any opinion to their employers, not even to say good morning or good night except in reply.

- Female staff are forbidden from smoking.

- Any maid found fraternising with a member of the opposite sex will be dismissed without a hearing.

- Any breakages or damage to the house will be deducted from wages.

Source 4:

In the early 1800s, servants slept in the kitchen, or in cupboards under the stairs. Later in the century they were allowed to sleep in the attics which were cold, damp and dimly lit.

Source 5:

Ladies preferred their maids to be young, so their wages went down each year they got older!

Source 6:

Annual wages in 1890
Housekeeper—£52 5s 0d
Lady’s maid—£24 7s 0d
House Maid—£16 2s 0d
Scullery Maid—£13 0s 0d
All expenses were paid for live-in servants.