

The Age of Enlightenment

Directions. In thoughtfully answering the following questions, think expansively. What “terms” or “names” are important to the response? Always consider PERSIA.

- How did the Enlightenment change basic Western attitudes toward reform, faith, and reason?
 - What were the major formative influences on the philosophes?
 - How important were Voltaire and the *Encyclopedia* in the success of the Enlightenment?
- Why did the philosophes consider organized religion to be their greatest enemy?
 - Discuss the basic tenets of deism.
 - How did Jewish writers contribute to Enlightenment thinking about religion?
 - What are the similarities and differences between the Enlightenment evaluation of Islam and its evaluations of Christianity and Judaism?
- What were the attitudes of the philosophes toward women?
 - What was Rousseau’s view of women?
 - What were the separate spheres he imagined men and women occupying?
 - What were Mary Wollstonecraft’s criticisms of Rousseau’s view?
- Compare the arguments of the mercantilists with those of Adam Smith in his book *The Wealth of Nations*.
 - How did both sides view the earth’s resources?
 - Why might Smith be regarded as an advocate of the consumer?
 - How did his theory of history work to the detriment of less economically advanced non-European peoples?
- Discuss the political views of Montesquieu and Rousseau.
 - Was Montesquieu’s view of England accurate?
 - Was Rousseau of child of the Enlightenment or its enemy?
 - Which did Rousseau value more, the individual or society?
- Were the enlightened monarchs true believers in the ideal of the philosophes, or was their enlightenment a mere veneer?
 - Were they really absolute in power?
 - What motivated their reforms?
 - What does the partition of Poland indicate about the spirit of enlightened absolutism?