

# Chapter 1: The Age of Enlightenment

1. Answer the following. (pgs. 21 – 23)

a. What subject interested René Descartes the most? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What were the two questions that troubled Descartes while he was studying philosophy?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. After contemplation and prayer, what was the “light” he discovered that answered his questions?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Give the name of the book Descartes wrote that developed his new philosophical ideas.  
\_\_\_\_\_

e. Complete these ideas that are found in Descartes’s book:

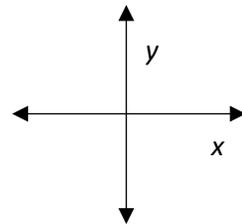
I must realize that everything I think I know is nothing but \_\_\_\_\_ I learned as a child.  
I must \_\_\_\_\_ anything and everything I think I know.  
I escape \_\_\_\_\_ by realizing that only a \_\_\_\_\_ being can \_\_\_\_\_.  
If I am a \_\_\_\_\_ being, I must also \_\_\_\_\_ because if I didn’t \_\_\_\_\_,  
I couldn’t \_\_\_\_\_!

f. Finish Descartes’s famous phrase that sums up his philosophy. Write it in Latin and English.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Did you know?** Descartes is also famous for developing analytic or Cartesian geometry. His use of a horizontal X-axis and vertical Y-axis explained geometry in algebraic terms. His grid became the basis for calculus. “Cartesian” comes from Descartes’s name in Latin.



g. Complete Descartes's ideas about God:

Where does my thought of God, a perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ being, come from?  
It cannot come from me because I am not perfectly \_\_\_\_\_.  
The idea of God must come from \_\_\_\_\_ himself.  
Therefore, God must \_\_\_\_\_!  
Since God is perfectly \_\_\_\_\_, he would not \_\_\_\_\_ or deceive me.  
Therefore, everything in the world I can sense must also \_\_\_\_\_.



h. Complete more of Descartes's ideas:

The material world and the human body operate according to fixed and eternal \_\_\_\_\_ that cannot be changed.  
The material world is like a vast \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ set the world in motion, but then left it to run on its own without any further help.  
Since the human \_\_\_\_\_ is not material, it is the only thing in the world that is \_\_\_\_\_.

i. What Catholic beliefs did Descartes's philosophy undermine? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

j. What **two** modern doctrines did Descartes's ideas encourage?  
\_\_\_\_\_

k. Did Descartes wish to encourage these ideas? \_\_\_\_\_

l. Did the Catholic Church reject or accept Descartes's philosophy? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Answer the following. (pgs. 23 – 24)

a. What is skepticism? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. What were some other causes of skepticism in the 17<sup>th</sup> century besides Descartes's philosophy? Give **two** causes.  
• \_\_\_\_\_  
• \_\_\_\_\_

c. Libertines or "freethinkers" wanted freedom in what **two** areas of life?  
✓ \_\_\_\_\_  
✓ \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you know?** Libertine comes from the Latin word *liber* which means "free." Skeptic comes from the Greek word *skepsis* or *skeptikos* which means doubt or question.

3. Answer the following. (pgs. 24 – 25)

a. What was the new religion that developed from rationalism? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Put a check mark next to the sentences that describe this new religion:

- God intervenes in the affairs of the world and cares for his creation.
- God set the universe in motion and left it alone to continue by the laws of nature.
- God is a spiritual being utterly separate from the universe he created.
- It is useless and irrational to pray to God.
- Reason must judge religion as well as science.
- Jesus Christ is God, the second person of the Trinity.
- Belief in the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Resurrection, and miracles are irrational.
- Jesus Christ is a great ethical teacher, but not God.
- We know how we ought to behave because God has revealed the moral law to mankind.
- Humans should behave in any way they want.
- Humans learn how they ought to behave by using their reason alone.
- Religion should require people to attend church to worship God.
- Religion should only require people to lead moral lives.
- The Christian Faith should be outlawed.
- Christianity is not true, but it is useful in controlling uneducated people.
- Only educated freethinkers can be members of the new religion.



c. Name **three** shocking claims made by the philosopher Spinoza in his *Theological-Political Treatise*:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

d. Complete Spinoza’s radical ideas found in *Demonstrated in the Manner of Geometry*:

The mind (or soul) \_\_\_\_\_, so it is not \_\_\_\_\_.

The mind and all matter are \_\_\_\_\_ thing and that is \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, the natural laws by which the universe runs are the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

e. Who is known as the “Father of the Enlightenment”? \_\_\_\_\_

f. What was the name of his influential work? \_\_\_\_\_

g. Describe this work and why it was a powerful tool in spreading skepticism: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Complete this paragraph about the philosopher Thomas Hobbes and his ideas: (pgs. 27 -28)

In 1651 Hobbes published a book called \_\_\_\_\_  
or the Matter, Form, and Power of a Commonwealth, Ecclesiastical and Civil.

The title refers to a creature of the \_\_\_\_\_, a fearsome  
\_\_\_\_\_ that lives in the depths of the sea. In this book Hobbes  
presents a very \_\_\_\_\_ view of human nature. He thought a  
human being was merely a kind of \_\_\_\_\_ without an  
immaterial \_\_\_\_\_ or a free \_\_\_\_\_. Left to themselves,  
people will do only what \_\_\_\_\_ them without thinking about \_\_\_\_\_. Hobbes said that  
originally humans lived in a “state of \_\_\_\_\_” where they knew nothing about \_\_\_\_\_ or  
\_\_\_\_\_, justice or \_\_\_\_\_. In this state, life was a \_\_\_\_\_ of every man against  
every \_\_\_\_\_. To escape this terrible situation, people banded together to form a \_\_\_\_\_.  
They made a “social \_\_\_\_\_” with a sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ who would provide peace and  
\_\_\_\_\_ if they gave up all their \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ had absolute  
\_\_\_\_\_ over his subjects and could not be disobeyed. According to Hobbes, \_\_\_\_\_ is the  
servant of the government and must help keep order. Hobbes concluded that the \_\_\_\_\_ is the “great  
\_\_\_\_\_” that must control everything. Hobbes’s radical book influenced some of the leading  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.



5. Complete this paragraph about the philosopher John Locke and his ideas. (pgs. 28 – 29)

In 1690 John Locke published his most important work – *Two \_\_\_\_\_*.  
Locke’s ideas about the “state of \_\_\_\_\_” were similar to Hobbes’s, but Locke did not think humans were  
always cruel and \_\_\_\_\_. He thought humans followed a \_\_\_\_\_ law (the \_\_\_\_\_  
law) that required them to respect the \_\_\_\_\_ of others. He said there were three \_\_\_\_\_ that no  
one could justly take away from people and those were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
When people formed their social \_\_\_\_\_ they gave up only some of their \_\_\_\_\_, not their  
three inalienable ones. The people could \_\_\_\_\_ their government if it violated the \_\_\_\_\_  
of individuals and \_\_\_\_\_ a new one in its place. Locke’s ideas provided a theory of  
\_\_\_\_\_ that has become the basis of most \_\_\_\_\_ thinking from his time to our own.

6. Answer the following. (pg. 29)

a. According to Locke, what was the most important individual right and what is its definition?

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b. According to Locke, what form of government is the most likely to protect this right?

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7. Finish these sentences: (pgs. 29 – 30)

- a. Liberalism is a political and social philosophy that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. To the Liberal way of thinking, human beings by nature are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. To the Liberal thinker, government exists to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. According to Liberalism, individuals first and foremost \_\_\_\_\_
- e. According to Liberalism, the function of government is to make sure \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Read the statements below. If a statement describes a Liberal attitude, write a “L” on the line. If it describes a Medieval Catholic attitude, write a “M” on the line. (pgs. 29 – 30)

- a. \_\_\_\_ Human beings are made by God to live in society with others.
- b. \_\_\_\_ Human beings by nature are individuals who live without connection to anyone
- c. \_\_\_\_ Only in society can people attain the common good.
- d. \_\_\_\_ The greatest good is everlasting union with God in heaven.
- e. \_\_\_\_ The greatest good is individual liberty.
- f. \_\_\_\_ Government exists only to keep individuals from hurting one another.
- g. \_\_\_\_ Government is a necessary evil – if we could live without it, we would.
- h. \_\_\_\_ Government is natural to man and it helps men achieve the common good.
- i. \_\_\_\_ Government should fight immorality and heresy and promote the true religion.
- j. \_\_\_\_ Religion is private opinion and government should not promote one religion over another.
- k. \_\_\_\_ Individuals should be permitted to speak and to publish their opinions, no matter what they are.
- l. \_\_\_\_ Individuals should not be permitted to speak and publish opinions which destroy the common good.

9. Review: Match the columns.

- A. Descartes [ ] man in the state of nature is nasty and brutal
- B. Divine Providence [ ] one who wants freedom of thought and morals
- C. skepticism [ ] God keeps the world in existence and cares for his creation
- D. libertine [ ] society is directed toward the freedom of individuals, not the common good
- E. Deism [ ] Locke’s inalienable rights of man
- F. Spinoza [ ] “I think, therefore I am.”
- G. Hobbes [ ] father of political Liberalism
- H. life, liberty, property [ ] nothing can be known for certain to be true
- I. Locke [ ] the universe is God
- J. Liberalism [ ] the religious side of rationalism

10. Fill in the blanks to complete this story of Voltaire's early life. (pgs. 31 – 33)



Voltaire was a \_\_\_\_\_ class Frenchman who mixed with aristocratic \_\_\_\_\_ and attended Paris \_\_\_\_\_ where \_\_\_\_\_ and irreligious ideas were discussed. When he was a young man, he was imprisoned in the \_\_\_\_\_ for writing poems \_\_\_\_\_ the French regent. After his release Voltaire earned fame as a \_\_\_\_\_. He not only had a successful literary career, he also became a very \_\_\_\_\_ man through financial \_\_\_\_\_, investments, and making friends with \_\_\_\_\_. However, his bitter and sarcastic \_\_\_\_\_ got him into trouble and he again found himself in the \_\_\_\_\_. He was then sent from France to \_\_\_\_\_ for three years. While in that country, Voltaire discovered the works of the scientist \_\_\_\_\_ and the philosopher \_\_\_\_\_ and became a great admirer of \_\_\_\_\_ society. He returned to France as a \_\_\_\_\_ and wrote commentaries on \_\_\_\_\_ and works against \_\_\_\_\_. He attacked the French \_\_\_\_\_ and state. To escape arrest, Voltaire fled to the independent duchy of \_\_\_\_\_. In his new home, he performed \_\_\_\_\_ and wrote more and more about \_\_\_\_\_, philosophy, and \_\_\_\_\_. His writings made \_\_\_\_\_ ideas more popular. He had a clear, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ style of writing. His cruel \_\_\_\_\_ made his opponents' ideas seem \_\_\_\_\_. He told outright \_\_\_\_\_ to promote his ideas and destroy those of others. He rejected all traditional \_\_\_\_\_ as foolish and superstitious. He denied the immortality of the \_\_\_\_\_ and was a proponent of \_\_\_\_\_ libertinism. His chief enemy (which he called “the \_\_\_\_\_ one”) was the \_\_\_\_\_. He accused it of pretending it was the one, true \_\_\_\_\_ just to fool and \_\_\_\_\_ the masses. He thought \_\_\_\_\_ might be fine for ignorant, common people, but educated men should look to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for guidance on how to live. He became the greatest advocate of \_\_\_\_\_ tolerance in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Since he thought the common man could never be “enlightened”, he opposed \_\_\_\_\_ and favored a government run by an “enlightened” and absolute \_\_\_\_\_. Voltaire's use of the term “\_\_\_\_\_” gave the name to 18<sup>th</sup> century movement toward Liberal ideas.

11. What was Diderot's *Encyclopedia*? Why was it instrumental in undermining religion and tradition? (pgs. 33 – 34)

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12. Answer the following. (pgs. 34 – 37)

a. Despite his own troubled life and moral failures, what conclusion did Rousseau come to about human beings?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What did Rousseau think about Society? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. In his first published work, what did Rousseau say was the ideal life for humans?

\_\_\_\_\_

d. In his second work, what did Rousseau say was the ideal life or life in the “state of nature”?

\_\_\_\_\_

e. What did Rousseau think was the cause of societal corruption and oppression?

\_\_\_\_\_

f. What did Rousseau think was the solution to society’s problems? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

g. What did Rousseau think about religion? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

h. What three religious doctrines did Rousseau think all should believe?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

i. What was Rousseau’s attitude about the Catholic Faith? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

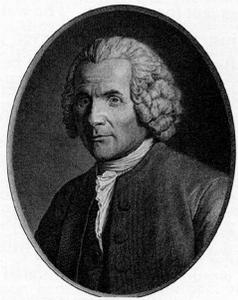
j. What was Rousseau’s most important and influential published work? \_\_\_\_\_

k. Complete his ideas expressed in his book:

The authority of the state comes from the combined will of the \_\_\_\_\_.

The sovereign power does not belong to \_\_\_\_\_, but to the \_\_\_\_\_.

To preserve their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, individuals join together and make a \_\_\_\_\_ contract with each other.



In this contract they lose their \_\_\_\_\_ and agree to be ruled by the “\_\_\_\_\_” of all.

- l. What was Rousseau’s ideal form of government? \_\_\_\_\_
  - m. What movement did Rousseau’s ideas inspire? \_\_\_\_\_
  - n. What did Voltaire think about Rousseau’s ideas? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Dig Deeper:** Have you ever heard someone say something like, “He was philosophical about his job loss.” In such a sentence “philosophical” means calm, realistic, or reasonable. The implication is that if you use your reason, you’ll remain calm about your problems and your happiness will not be disturbed. Do you think the modern philosophers Voltaire and Rousseau were happy men? Why or why not? Were the medieval philosophers Albert the Great and Thomas Aquinas happy men? What contributed to their happiness or unhappiness? Write your thoughts below.

