



AP[®] European History 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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The Enlightenment had a profound impact on both elite and popular cultures in the eighteenth century. Not only did it change the structure of government and technology in places, but it also deeply impacted people's beliefs. For the elite cultures, the progression of man lent to them a reason to continue progressing. For the popular culture, equality of man was gladly accepted.

The Enlightenment led to a rejection of superstition by the elite culture. Exemplified by Voltaire's Écrasez l'Infâme, the elite cultures soon saw it as fashionable to reject superstition for it could not be founded upon truth. For a large part, this did not mean a rejection of religion, though it did come to such, for example with Robespierre's Cult of Reason. Some of the popular culture ~~also~~ slowly came to take this view of things as well.

Another major impact of the Enlightenment came in the form of education. Since man could better himself, and since the world could be examined, the world was examined. For the elites, salons were held in which pertinent topics were discussed. ~~Diderot's~~ Encyclopédie boasted in having compiled the most up-to-date information from many philosophes. Nonetheless, this was not restricted solely to the elites, but also to the popular culture. For them, it was simply the basics of being able to read and write which was an advantage over their previous state. Almanacs became popular as a chance to learn more. An amazing percentage even went to university (half of Oxford's students

were of bourgeoisie background) The desire for knowledge, sparked by the belief in its usefulness, spread like wildfire among both cultures.

The mindset of the Enlightenment also affected both cultures. The elite culture admitted that man was progressing. So, they attempted to aid this process by their participation in the sciences. The popular culture, on the other hand, became enthralled with the idea of personal rights. The Enlightenment stressed a self-sufficient man, who was equal with others. Locke expounded upon this in his writings, and it was used to influence governmental policies. In France, the cry for justice and equality was loud and obvious, but even the calm Burke believed that England, through slow and gradual methods, was heading towards the same goal of equality. The popular culture also felt freer to try new jobs and leave their family heritage. This is simply another way in which the Enlightenment aided in the Industrial Revolution.

Therefore, the Enlightenment impacted both ~~the~~ elite and popular culture. It impacted their view upon superstition and religion as well as their view of man himself. The Enlightenment paved the way to increased learning and increased progression simply by its faith in these.

The Enlightenment was a progression of the Scientific Revolution in which people sought to use the ideas presented in the Scientific Revolution ~~and~~ to society. The idea of the natural laws first introduced in the Scientific Revolution ~~caused~~ ~~many~~ created a lot of influence, ~~in~~ embodied in ~~the~~ Enlightenment ideas. The concept of human ability to rationally understand the world in which they lived in was a major concept of the Enlightenment. ~~and~~ with this idea, the Enlightenment influenced the elite culture in its final ~~decline~~ ^{decline} and popular culture in its progress.

After the Scientific Revolution, people believed that human ~~of~~ progress ~~was~~ and the progress of society were natural to humankind. This can be seen through the many saloons in France which represented the cultural center of ~~Europe~~ Europe. These saloons hosted prominent French ladies in society that hosted and directed wide discussions and deliberations with other philosophes ~~and~~ theories and ideas. These philosophes were men and women of letters whose main purpose was to popularize the ideas of the Enlightenment. Voltaire, John Locke, ^{and} Rousseau are examples of some of the most prominent philosophes. In this era ~~of increasing~~ ~~increasing~~ ~~awareness~~ ~~of~~ many

~~The~~ new and radical ideas of the way a government and society should be were presented and questioned. ~~the~~ Many philosophes began to question the existing social institutions and orders. Voltaire is a prime example of this as he satires not only the Roman Catholic Church but also the nobility. ~~As people~~ The Enlightenment also encouraged education and increasing awareness of ^{the} popular culture. ~~For~~ Because of this, many country's poor population started to uprise against their existing ~~the~~ situations.

The French Revolution is a prime example of the Enlightenment's influence on the elite and popular culture. As the popular culture ~~begans~~ became more educated and ~~read~~ were presented with ideas like the rights of man and universal equality and suffrage, many of France's poor people became defiant of their elite. ~~As~~ ~~the~~ Because of their suppression and unfair plight in France as well as their over taxation and archaic position in the Third Estate many of the poor and philosophes believed that the nobility were suppressing human progress. In their quest for the goals ~~the~~ and new ideas laid out ~~the~~ and introduced ~~for~~ in the Enlightenment, the bourgeoisie revolted ^{in 1789} against the elite culture. Their revolt although lasting until 1815

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managed) to eliminate the elite culture and create a more social equality between the classes.