

Topic: Foundations of the Enlightenment

Task: Using your reading of the following primary and secondary source material, fully answer the questions related to those sources. Your answers MUST be supported, if not fully derived from, specific evidence and quotes from the readings so as to reflect a very “close reading of the material.”

Group Quiz – 40 points

Lester Crocker – “The Age of Enlightenment”

1. Although they were often at odds among themselves, identify the main points of agreement among the philosophes in the Age of Enlightenment. (5)
2. Fully discuss why the philosophes were so concerned with, and negative, in their attitudes toward Christianity and the Church? (5)

Immanuel Kant – “What is Enlightenment?”

1. Does intellectual immaturity signify lack of intelligence? Why or why not? (5)
2. What is required to become enlightened? AND, fully explain the problem of laziness and cowardice. (5)
3. Why, according to Kant, do “...rulers have no interest in playing the guardian of their subjects in matters of arts and sciences.”? (5)

Denis Diderot – (from the Encyclopedia) “The Philosophe”

1. What is meant by the phrase, “He marches at night, but a torch goes on ahead.” How is this quote connected to the philosophes emphasis on reason? (5)

Baron d’Hollbach – “The System of Nature”

1. Compare d’Hollbach’s notions of being “enlightened”, or not, with that of Kant. How do their definitions of “enlightenment” compare? (10)