

Socratic Seminar Test
Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment

Monday, November 13th

Directions: Prepare a typed, paragraph length (5 – 8 sentences) response to each prompt that you choose. You must respond to FIVE prompts. You must be prepared to discuss all prompts in class. You will also submit your typed responses BEFORE the class discussion to turnitin.com. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your prepared responses and the quality of your comments in class. I have high expectations for you on this assignment. I expect you to demonstrate a clear understanding of the issues and a willingness to think about challenging subjects, both in defending what you think and in considering opposing viewpoints.

Note: You are NOT competing with each other for points during the discussion. As long as you contribute complete sentences and insightful comments you will do well on the oral portion of the assignment.

Warning: While the main purpose is to have a discussion, disagreements may arise that ought to be settled through civil dialogue. I encourage you all to engage each other on these topics in a respectful manner. I want ideas expressed, NOT arguments won. Your task is to discuss the topics, NOT to push your personal agenda or attack/ridicule other people. That being said, do NOT make a claim that you are not prepared and/or willing to defend.

Remember: You are required to prepare typed responses only for the FIVE prompts that you choose. You must submit your responses to turnitin.com BEFORE class. I encourage you to also bring a hard-copy of your responses to use during the discussion.

1. Summarize the major innovations in *astronomy* during the Scientific Revolution and explain how these discoveries altered the way people thought about both the *physical* and *spiritual* world?
2. Explain the different approaches to seeking and acquiring knowledge promoted by Francis Bacon and Rene Descartes? What role did these two individuals play in bringing forth the *modern worldview*?
3. Would the Scientific Revolution have occurred without the Renaissance and the Reformation? Explain.
4. Explain the nature of the Enlightenment's "faith" in reason to improve society and human nature? What were the goals of the Enlightenment? How did the *philosophes* approach the idea of "progress"?
5. How did science and philosophy influence *economics*? Why did Adam Smith promote the *laissez-faire* approach? Identify strengths and weaknesses of *laissez-faire*.
6. Summarize and explain the political philosophy of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. How did his thought differ from Locke, and how did he challenge the Enlightenment itself?
7. What role did *women* play in the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment? Evaluate male attitudes towards women during this time period. How did men attempt to justify female inferiority? Why do you think men sought to exclude women from scientific endeavors and philosophical projects?
8. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Kant's "Categorical Imperative" and explain how Kant's philosophy further developed individualism and secularism within Europe.