

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ P. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Enlightenment DBQ:**

**Directions:** Analyze the documents presented in the Enlightenment DBQ with the aim of preparing yourself to write a response to the DBQ Prompt:

### **The Enlightenment Philosophers: What was Their Main Idea?**

#### **Section 1: Background Essay Questions**

1. What two centuries were the centuries of the *philosophes*?
2. What did the *philosophes* hope to accomplish?
3. What two tools did the *philosophes* believe are necessary to find out the truth of things?
4. What is another name for the Enlightenment period?
5. How did Isaac Newton inspire the *philosophes*?
6. Define the following terms:
  - a. *Philosophe*:
  - b. Natural law:
  - c. Universal:
  - d. Social Sciences:

#### **Section 2: Document Analysis Questions**

##### **Document A:** John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*

1. In what year is John Locke writing these words? How many years was this before the American Declaration of Independence?
2. What does John Locke mean when he says that all men are naturally in “a state of perfect freedom...within the bounds of the law of nature”?

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3. What does Locke have to say about human equality?
4. According to Locke, who has the right to create a new government if the old government fails? What two branches of government does Locke appear to recommend?
5. Based on these two passages, what would you say is Locke's main idea?

**Document B:** Voltaire, *Letters Concerning the English Nation*

1. What happened at the Royal Exchange in London?
2. Why, according to Voltaire, is it good that England allows a "multitude" of religions?
3. What is Voltaire's main idea about religion in society?
4. What does Voltaire's main idea about religion have in common with John Locke's main idea about government?

**Document C:** Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*

1. In paragraph one, does Adam Smith support an economic system based on government control or individual decision making? Why?
2. In paragraph two, according to Adam Smith, why do most individuals work?
3. According to Smith, what is the happy and unexpected result when people pursue their own economic gain?

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4. In paragraph two, Smith mentions an “invisible hand”. What do you think he means by that?
  
5. What is Adam Smith’s main idea about trade and economic decision making?

**Document D:** Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

1. In what year is Mary Wollstonecraft writing these words? What revolution was going on at the time?
  
2. How does Wollstonecraft believe women compare to men? What does Wollstonecraft recommend in order to make women equal to men?
  
3. What methods did Wollstonecraft use to reach her conclusions?
  
4. What is Wollstonecraft’s main idea?
  
5. In what ways are the main ideas of Wollstonecraft, Locke, Smith, and Voltaire similar?

**Section 3: Thesis Development**

After revisiting your document analysis, you should have a good idea as to what the key ideas of the Enlightenment Philosophers were, such as individual freedoms, natural rights and questioning what the correct form of government was in order to allow the progression of society, to name a few. Now narrow your analysis down to the **most important** or **main** idea of the Enlightenment Philosophers and create a thesis. **Remember**, your thesis will should start with the signal phrase (or something similar to), “The main idea of the Enlightenment Philosophers was ...” Remember to also include reasoning as to why that was their main idea and focus. What was the impact on society?

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