

**Historical Supplement Note Set:
“The Scientific Revolution and Western Civilization.”**

To enlighten is to bring light where there had previously been darkness, to replace opinion, i. e., superstition, by scientific knowledge of nature...Men always had opinions about everything, but those opinions were without ground and indemonstrable. Thus the problem of Enlightenment is not merely discovery of the truth but the conflict between the truth and the beliefs of men. Enlightenment begins from the tension between what men are compelled to believe by (state) and religion, on the one hand, and the quest for scientific truth on the other.

Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Please respond on these sheets in the spaces provided.

1. (2 pts.) The first unit of the Historical Supplement notes covered the major physical impacts of science on human civilization. Simply list the 8 major categories of impacts here.
2. (1 pt.) The Enlightenment period is also known as: _____
3. (1 pt.) In the excerpt in the text box above from philosopher Allan Bloom’s book *Closing of the American Mind*, he points out that in our ignorant, pre-scientific past, we nevertheless had always (to the present day, I might add) held to baseless _____.
4. (2 pt.) According to philosopher Allan Bloom, what was the innovation of the Enlightenment?
5. 2 pts.) He also acknowledges that the great understandings brought about by philosophy and science could (and still can) sometimes be at odds with what two institutions? (Hint: between truth and what men are compelled to believe by...)

6. (3 pts.) The Scientific Revolution gave us a fundamentally alternative approach (“naturalistic”) to understanding the workings of the physical world. Write the naturalistic and supernaturalistic approaches to the following subjects:

Illness

Mental conditions

Plague

7. (3 pts.) The scientific approach to understanding has brought us neither proof nor disproof of God’s—any god or goddess’s—existence, but *has* profoundly affected how we think about God’s role in nature. Where in the past we attributed to some deity the occasion of a lightning bolt, apparition of a comet, or earthquake, today we view these as natural phenomena, completely understandable in natural and probabilistic terms. Briefly summarize the three basic ways people have responded to this advance in human understanding.

8. (1 pt.) Naturalistic explanations provide satisfaction because they are sensible and can have demonstrable results. America’s first scientist, Benjamin Franklin developed but a rudimentary understanding of electricity, but it led to the invention of what that really worked, saving countless lives to this day? Please use its real name, not the perjorative name given it by the pious of the 18th century.

9. (3 pts.) Complete the sentences summarizing Bloom’s description of the basic political nature of the Enlightenment, bringing out what is of fundamental importance to the liberal democracy we have in our country. (Looking for two aspects here; what rulers are “not” is found later.)

a. Rulers are not _____ and can be _____.

b. Freedoms of _____ & _____ are essential. They enable the people the right and responsibility in a democracy to think.

10. (2 pts.) Describe humanism and its rise from the Greeks onward. (See Kolenda’s remarks; you may borrow from the footnote as well.)

11. (6+1 pts.) The writings of Kolenda, Sagan, Druyan, and Ehrenreich on pages 7 and 8 provide some reasons why America's Founding Fathers incorporated a clause in the First Amendment regarding the establishment by government of religion to discourage entanglement of church and state. Briefly summarize three of their reasons here. A fourth reason earns 1 pt. extra credit.
12. (6+1 pts.) The U.S. Constitution's and Bill of Rights' development was influenced by the Enlightenment. Describe three ways in which the Constitution embodies aspects of scientific thought. Describe a 4th for extra credit. (See essay starting on page 12. Hint: Your first response can come directly from the subject of the previous question.)
13. (1 pts.) Simply write here the two quotations about history given at the end of the notes.
14. (1 pts.) Science, democracy, individual human rights are all great contributions of what?
- The Confederate States of America
 - The *Magna Carta*
 - The great religions: Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism,
 - The writings of Lao Tzu
 - Western Civilization

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