

4 The Enlightenment: applying reason to society – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

Enlightenment

public sphere

Recall

- You know a rule can be criticised for being unreasonable.
- You have seen a private conversation change a public argument.
- You know an idea can spread faster than a government can stop it.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 The project

The **Enlightenment** applied the new method to human affairs, asking what government, law and religion would look like if designed by reason.

Worked example. Asking what a rational state would do is already a criticism of the existing one.

■ 2 Where ideas circulated

Salons, coffeehouses, academies and print created a **public sphere** in which subjects discussed matters previously reserved to rulers.

Worked example. A room where a merchant and a noble argue about taxation is itself a political change.

■ 3 Reformers and rulers

Some rulers adopted Enlightenment measures without surrendering authority - legal reform, religious toleration, education - which shows the ideas were not only revolutionary.

Worked example. A monarch who reforms the law code has used a reformer's argument to strengthen a crown.

Watch out: The Enlightenment was not one programme. Its thinkers disagreed sharply about religion, equality and how far reform should go.

Practice

2.1 State what the Enlightenment applied and to what. [2]

2.2 Explain why asking what a rational state would do is a criticism. [2]

2.3 Name three places where the public sphere formed. [3]

2.4 Explain how a ruler could adopt reforms without surrendering authority. [2]

2.5 State why the Enlightenment was not one programme. [1]
