Scientific, Philosophical, and Political Developments

AP European History · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
Scientific Revolution /saɪən'tɪfɪk ˌrevə'luːʃn/	The **Scientific Revolution** changed how people studied nature.
Enlightenment /en'laɪtənmənt/	The **Enlightenment** praised reason and freedom.
Copernicus /'kəʊpənɪkəs/	**Copernicus** said the Earth moves around the Sun.
Galileo /ˌgælɪ'leɪəʊ/	**Galileo** used a telescope to study the planets.
Newton /'njuːtn/	**Newton** explained gravity.
heliocentric /ˌhelɪəʊ'sentrɪk/	The **heliocentric** model puts the Sun at the centre.
telescope /'telɪskəʊp/	A **telescope** makes far objects look closer.
universal gravitation	Newton's law of **universal gravitation** explains why planets orbit the Sun.
scientific societies	**Scientific societies** let scientists share their discoveries.
William Harvey /'wɪlɪəm 'hɑːvi/	**William Harvey** showed that blood flows around the body.
integrated system /'ɪntɪgreɪtɪd 'sɪstəm/	Newton showed the universe works as an **integrated system** of laws.
Francis Bacon /'frænsɪs 'beɪkən/	**Francis Bacon** said science should start with careful observation.

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René Descartes /rɪ'neɪ dɪ'skɑːts/	**René Descartes** said, "I think, therefore I am."
inductive and deductive reasoning /ɪn'dʌktɪv ænd dɪ'dʌktɪv 'riːzənɪŋ/	Science uses **inductive and deductive reasoning**: from facts to rules, and from rules to facts.
empiricism /em'pɪrɪsɪzəm/	**Empiricism** says knowledge comes from the senses.
rationalism /'ræʃənəlɪzəm/	**Rationalism** says knowledge comes from reason.
scepticism /'skeptɪsɪzəm/	**Scepticism** means doubting claims until there is proof.
Locke /lɒk/	**Locke** said people have rights to life, liberty and property.
Rousseau /'ruːsəʊ/	**Rousseau** wrote about the general will of the people.
natural rights /'nætʃərəl raɪts/	**Natural rights** belong to everyone from birth.
social contract /'səʊʃl 'kɒntrækt/	The **social contract** is an agreement between people and their government.
blank slate	Locke said a baby's mind is a **blank slate**.
general will	Rousseau's **general will** is what is best for the whole community.
Adam Smith's /'ædəm smɪθs/	**Adam Smith's** book argued for free markets.
free trade /friː treɪd/	With **free trade**, countries buy and sell without taxes on imports.
invisible hand /ɪn'vɪzɪbl hænd/	The **invisible hand** of the market guides prices without government.

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physiocrats	The **physiocrats** said land is the source of wealth.
Voltaire /vɑʊl'teə/	**Voltaire** fought for freedom of speech and religion.
Diderot /'daɪdrɒt/	**Diderot** edited a huge encyclopedia of knowledge.
deism, scepticism, and atheism /'deɪzəm 'skeptɪsɪzəm ænd 'eɪθɪɪzəm/	Some thinkers moved toward **deism, scepticism, and atheism**.
religious toleration	**Religious toleration** lets people follow their own faith.
salons /'sælɒnz/	Thinkers met in Paris **salons** to discuss new ideas.
Mary Wollstonecraft /'meəri 'wʊlstəʊŋkræft/	**Mary Wollstonecraft** argued that women should be educated.
Montesquieu /'mɒntɪskwɪuː/	**Montesquieu** said power should be split into three branches.
Cesare Beccaria /'seseə be'keərɪə/	**Cesare Beccaria** argued against torture and cruel punishment.
Anne Robert Jacques Turgot /æn 'rɒbət ʒæk 'tɜːgət/	**Anne Robert Jacques Turgot** tried to reform French taxes.
revival of German Pietism /rɪ'vaɪvl ɒv 'dʒɜːmən 'paɪətɪzəm/	The **revival of German Pietism** stressed personal faith.
agricultural revolution /ˌægrɪ'kʌltʃərəl ˌrevə'luːʃn/	The **agricultural revolution** grew more food with fewer workers.
enclosure	**Enclosure** fenced off common land for private farming.

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putting-out system /'pʊtɪŋ aʊt 'sɪstəm/	In the **putting-out system**, merchants gave work to families at home.
cottage industry /'kɒtɪdʒ 'ɪndʌstri/	**Cottage industry** means making goods by hand at home.
inoculation /ɪˌnɒkjʊ'leɪʃn/	**Inoculation** protected people from smallpox.
European marriage pattern /jʊərə'pɪən 'mærɪdʒ 'pætn/	In the **European marriage pattern**, people married late.
censorship /'sensəʃɪp/	**Censorship** banned books that criticised the king.
literate public /'lɪtərət 'pʌblɪk/	A **literate public** could read newspapers and books.
public sphere /'pʌblɪk sfɪə/	In the **public sphere**, people discussed politics in cafés and papers.
consumer revolution /kən'suːmə ˌrevə'luːʃn/	The **consumer revolution** made goods like tea and cotton common.
privacy /'prɪvəsi/	**Privacy** means people control who sees their information.
enlightened absolutism /en'laɪtnd 'æbsəluːtɪzəm/	Under **enlightened absolutism**, kings used reason to rule.
Edict of Toleration	Joseph II's **Edict of Toleration** gave freedom to more religions.
Prussia rose to power /'prʌʃə rəʊz tə 'paʊə/	**Prussia rose to power** through its strong army.