

Exercise walk-through

20th-Century Cultural, Intellectual, and Artistic Developments ■ 8.10

eXercise

You must be able to

- state when the belief in progress began to break down
- explain the coexistence of confidence and uncertainty in 1914
- state the two consequences of the challenge to Newtonian certainty
- name the war's effects on culture and on women

Method — Before the war

The widely held belief in progress **began to break down before World War I**. Dating the loss of confidence to 1914 is a mistake the CED explicitly forecloses.

Method — Coexistence

When the war began Europeans were **generally confident** in science and technology **despite** the uncertainty created by new scientific theories and psychology. Public confidence and specialist doubt coexisted.

Method — Two consequences

The challenge to Newtonian certainty opened the door to uncertainty in other fields by undermining faith in objective knowledge **while also** providing the knowledge necessary for nuclear weapons and power.

Method — The war's effects

It created a “lost generation”, fostered disillusionment and cynicism, transformed the lives of women, and democratised societies. During the world wars women became increasingly involved in military and political mobilisation and in economic production.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State when the belief in progress began to break down.

Solution 2.1

Method: Before the war

Worked steps

before the First World War **B1**; the war accelerated a breakdown already under way **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the two consequences of the challenge to Newtonian certainty.

Solution 2.2

Method: Two consequences

Worked steps

it undermined faith in objective knowledge **B1**; it provided the knowledge necessary for nuclear weapons and power **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The CED lists four effects of the First World War here.

- (a) Name them.
- (b) State which two pull in opposite directions.

Solution 2.3

Method: The war's effects

Worked steps

(a) a “lost generation”; disillusionment and cynicism; transformed lives of women; democratised societies **B2**. (b) cynicism and democratisation **B2**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

In 1914 Europeans were

- A** uniformly despairing
- B** generally confident despite specialist uncertainty
- C** unaware of science
- D** opposed to technology

Solution 3.1

Method: Coexistence

- A uniformly despairing
- B generally confident despite specialist uncertainty 
- C unaware of science
- D opposed to technology

Worked steps

B. the CED's "despite" holds both.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The new physics both undermined objectivity and provided the knowledge for

- A** the telegraph
- B** nuclear weapons and power
- C** the steam engine
- D** the printing press

Solution 3.2

- A the telegraph
- B nuclear weapons and power**
- C the steam engine
- D the printing press



Worked steps

- B.** the same physics did both.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A student dates the loss of confidence in progress to 1914.

- (a) State the error.
- (b) Explain the accurate account.

Solution 3.3

Method: Before the war

Worked steps

(a) the CED says the breakdown began before the war **B1**. (b) the war accelerated an existing loss of confidence **B1**, which had begun with new scientific theories and psychology **B1**.