

4.4 18th-Century Society and Demographics

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 11 marks**

KEY WORDS eighteenth-century society 社会

Objective

Build the skills to explain **eighteenth-century society** 社会 and population.

You must be able to:

- state the causes of eighteenth-century population growth
- describe changes in agricultural practice
- explain the beginnings of proto-industry
- connect demographic change to social pressure

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Population growth

Better harvests from new crops and improved rotation, some retreat of epidemic disease, and earlier marriage in regions where wage work was available. Growth was gradual and regionally uneven.

■ Agriculture

Enclosure, crop rotation and selective breeding raised yields where they were adopted, at the cost of displacing customary rights over common land.

■ Proto-industry

Rural households produced manufactures for distant markets under a merchant's direction, which supplied income independent of land and made earlier household formation possible.

■ Pressure

More people on the same land, with customary rights being enclosed, produces migration to towns and to proto-industrial work — and where neither is available, disorder.

2 Practice

2.1 State two causes of eighteenth-century population growth. [2]

2.2 Explain what proto-industry supplied to a rural household. [2]

2.3 Enclosure raises a district's yields.

(a) State one cost. [1]

(b) State one likely consequence for the displaced. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 New crops and improved rotation contributed to growth by [1]

- **A** reducing harvests
- **B** improving the food supply
- **C** ending marriage
- **D** raising mortality

3.2 Proto-industrial income mattered because it was [1]

- **A** dependent on landholding
- **B** independent of land
- **C** paid only in kind
- **D** confined to towns

3.3 A region's population grows while its common land is enclosed.

(a) State the resulting pressure.

[1]

(b) Explain the likely outcomes.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 any two of: better harvests from new crops and rotation; retreat of epidemic disease; earlier marriage where wage work was available.

2.2 income independent of land, which made earlier household formation possible.

2.3 (a) loss of customary rights over common land. (b) migration to towns or to proto-industrial work.

3.1 B. a better food supply reduces mortality and supports growth.

3.2 B. income not tied to landholding changes household options.

3.3 (a) more people with less access to land. (b) migration to towns or to proto-industry, and disorder where neither is available.