

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

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS disillusionment and cynicism 幻灭与犬儒 • "lost generation" 迷惘的一代
• intellectual 思想

Objective

Build the skills to explain the century's **intellectual** 思想 upheaval.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

2 Practice

2.1 State when the belief in progress began to break down. [2]

2.2 State the two consequences of the challenge to Newtonian certainty. [2]

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

(a) Name them. [2]

(b) State which two pull in opposite directions. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 In 1914 Europeans were [1]

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

3.2 The new physics both undermined objectivity and provided the knowledge for [1]

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

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

(a) State the error. [1]

(b) Explain the accurate account. [2]

Solutions

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

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

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

3.1 B. the CED’s “despite” holds both.

3.2 B. the same physics did both.

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