

1.4 Printing

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS printing 印刷术

Objective

Build the skills to explain the effects of **printing** 印刷术.

You must be able to:

- state what printing changed about the production of texts
- explain its effect on the spread of ideas
- describe how it affected vernacular languages
- avoid claiming printing caused every later development

1 Worked examples

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

■ What changed

Identical copies could be produced in quantity at falling cost. Manuscript copying had produced divergent, expensive texts; print produced standard, cheaper ones.

■ Spread of ideas

An idea could reach many places quickly and could not easily be suppressed once printed in quantity. That changed the balance between authorities and their critics.

■ Vernaculars

Printing in vernacular languages standardised spelling and grammar and widened the reading public beyond those who knew Latin.

■ Not a single cause

Printing enabled and accelerated; it did not by itself cause the Reformation or the Scientific Revolution. Say what it made possible and what still required other conditions.

2 Practice

2.1 State two things printing changed about text production. [2]

2.2 Explain how printing affected vernacular languages. [2]

2.3 A student writes: “Printing caused the Reformation.”

(a) State why this overstates. [1]

(b) Write a more defensible sentence. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Compared with manuscript copying, printing produced texts that were [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** more divergent and more expensive
 - B** standard and cheaper
 - C** rarer
 - D** unreadable

3.2 Printing shifted the balance between authorities and critics because [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** critics could be silenced more easily
 - B** printed material in quantity could not easily be suppressed
 - C** authorities owned all presses
 - D** nobody could read

3.3 A pamphlet is printed in 4,000 copies in three weeks.

(a) State one consequence for the authorities. [1]

(b) Explain what other condition was needed for it to have effect. [2]
