

7.5 The Age of Progress and Modernity

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS positivism 实证主义 • modernism 现代主义
• new relativism in values 价值相对主义

Objective

Build the skills to explain **positivism** 实证主义 and the loss of confidence.

You must be able to:

- state positivism’s claim and its reach
- state the two shifts that produced modernism
- explain why the CED calls this a tension rather than progress
- distinguish two different doubts

1 Worked examples

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

■ **Positivism**

The philosophy that **science alone** provides knowledge, emphasising rational and scientific analysis of nature **and human affairs**. Society becomes an object of scientific study.

■ **Two shifts**

In the later nineteenth century a new relativism in values **and** the loss of confidence in the objectivity of knowledge led to modernism in intellectual and cultural life.

■ **Tension not progress**

The confident claim and its collapse are decades apart, which is why the thread is a see-saw. Describing the century as steady progress toward science misstates it.

■ **Two doubts**

Relativism in **values** doubts what is good; loss of confidence in **objectivity** doubts what can be known. Distinguishing them costs nothing and makes an answer precise.

2 Practice

2.1 State positivism’s claim and its reach. [2]

2.2 State the two shifts that produced modernism. [2]

2.3 Two different doubts arise in the later century.

(a) Name them. [2]

(b) State the difference. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Positivism holds that knowledge comes from [1]

- A

B

C

D
- A tradition

B science alone

C revelation

D intuition

3.2 Modernism is described by the CED as [1]

- A

B

C

D
- A a style choice

B a consequence of the loss of confidence in objectivity

C a scientific method

D a political programme

3.3 A century opens in confidence and closes in doubt.

(a) State what this shows about the thread.

[1]

(b) Explain why “progress toward science” misdescribes it.

[2]
