

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2010 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 6

Analyze the ways in which the ideas of seventeenth-century thinkers John Locke and Isaac Newton contributed to the ideas of eighteenth-century Enlightenment thinkers.

9–8 Points

- The essay provides a sophisticated thesis that is clearly stated, addressing BOTH Locke and Newton and how they influenced Enlightenment thinkers.
- The organization is clear and effective.
- The essay is well balanced and connects BOTH Locke and Newton to TWO or more Enlightenment thinkers.
- All major assertions in the essay are supported by MULTIPLE pieces of relevant evidence.
- The essay may contain errors that do not detract from the argument.

7–6 Points

- The essay provides a good thesis that is clearly stated, addressing BOTH Locke and Newton and how they influenced Enlightenment thinkers.
- The organization is clear and effective.
- The essay is well balanced with BOTH Locke and Newton connected to at least ONE thinker of the Enlightenment.
- Assertions in the essay are supported by at least TWO pieces of evidence.
- The essay may contain an error that detracts from the argument.

5–4 Points

- The essay provides an adequate thesis that is clearly stated but uneven, OR the thesis tends to just reword the question.
- The organization is unbalanced and not necessarily effective. The essay tends to focus just on Locke and ONE Enlightenment thinker or just on Newton and ONE Enlightenment thinker.
- Major assertions are supported by at least ONE piece of evidence.
- The essay presents a mostly factual narrative with little analysis.
- The essay may contain minor errors that do not get in the way of the argument.

3–2 Points

- The thesis tends to restate the question OR there is no thesis.
- The organization is unclear and ineffective.
- The essay shows serious and major imbalance.
- The essay may make ONE reference to either Locke or Newton.
- The essay may mention ONE Enlightenment thinker in passing but never develops the connections.
- Supporting evidence is weak or nonexistent.
- Statements are superficial and general without any factual support.
- Little historical evidence is presented.
- Little or no analysis is presented.

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Question 6 (continued)

1–0 Points

- There is no thesis.
- The organization is poor.
- The essay is off task and nonresponsive to the question.
- There are no connections or analysis.
- There is little or no evidence of any understanding.

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Question 6 — Historical Background Notes

The question is a mainstream topic that is covered in depth in the major textbooks. While the texts for the most part discuss Newton and Locke separately, in the Enlightenment chapters they actually tend to lay out the connections between Locke, Newton and the Enlightenment. As a result, students should be well prepared to address the tasks presented by this question.

Locke's ideas are presented as stemming from his two major works, *The Second Treatise on Civil Government* and *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. In the *Second Treatise* Locke declares that government is set up to protect life, liberty and property. He notes that all men have natural rights (because man has the ability to reason) and that people have the right of rebellion if government becomes too tyrannical. Here Locke links economic liberty and private property with political freedom limiting voting rights to property owners.

In Locke's *Essay* he notes that all ideas are derived from experience. The mind is a blank slate (*tabula rasa*), and human development is determined by educational and social institutions. He believed that people were reasonable and authority rested in the hands of the majority who owned property.

The texts portray Newton as the "greatest and rarest genius that ever rose for the instruction of the human species." Newton, a devout if unorthodox Christian, noted that his works were directed toward explaining God's message (religion was necessary). His ability to explain planetary motion and motion on Earth gave science, and through it reason, enormous prestige throughout the West.

The texts clearly link both Newton and Locke to the Enlightened philosophes by declaring that they were enchanted by the grand Newtonian design of the world-machine and Locke's practical and reasonable view of government. The philosophes were convinced that by following the reasoning of these men they could come to discover the natural laws that governed politics, economics, justice, religion and the arts.

Several Enlightened writers are commonly connected to Locke and Newton.

- David Hume refers to life as only a collection of experiences. He notes that reason cannot tell man anything about things for which the individual has no experiences.
- Madame du Chatelet translated Newton's *Principia* for the French, thus making the Englishman's knowledge available for French writers to draw upon for guidance.
- Voltaire declared Newton history's "greatest man." He mixed Newton's glorification of science and reason with an appeal for better individuals and institutions. Voltaire defended Newton against the authorities of the times who saw his individualism as a threat to authority. Additionally he used Locke's virtues to attack Catholic bigotry.
- Montesquieu in his writings attacked traditional religious institutions and advocated religious toleration; he denounced slavery through the use of reason (Locke) and in his *Spirit of the Laws* applied natural law and reason to the relationship of government and law.
- Denis Diderot championed Deism, a religious view held by most philosophes that was built on Newton's natural laws.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

John Locke and Isaac Newton epitomized the Enlightenment ideas of the 1700s. ~~Thomas~~ Locke's philosophy and Newton's synthesis of preceding scientific achievements of Galileo, Kepler, Copernicus and formulated the Enlightenment belief in progress, ^{and} rationality.

John Locke ~~with his Two Treatises~~ formulated the idea of the social contract in his Two Treatises of Government. He believed that people were born with basic rights of freedom and liberty to speech, and to be. If the government or other ruling authority goes against the will of the people, the governed have the right to overthrow it. Such ideas were shared with the Enlightened thinkers ^{such as} of Rousseau ^(Social Contract), and was to be ~~used~~ ^{used} by Enlightened thinkers such as Diderot and other Encyclopedists ^{to} challenge the existing society. In fact Locke's argument was one of the vital elements included in the Encyclopédie.

Locke's Human Understanding of the Human Mind contributed to the Enlightened philosophers' obsession with rationality. ~~as~~ Locke believed that the human mind was initially like a blank tablet on which the environment's influence would draw and shape the human mind. This idea gained increased attention among the later philosophers of the Enlightenment and thus influenced the enlightened

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despots who were to better the environment to positively influence their people. Catherine ~~the~~ the Great of Russia, Frederick the Great of Prussia, and ~~the~~ Joseph-II of Austria all ~~formed~~ introduced reforms to better ~~the~~ their states.

While John Locke had a philosophical and a more social influence of the Enlightenment, Isaac Newton with his Principia had made a huge impact on the scientific and daily thinking. Discovering ~~that~~ the gravitational force ~~was~~ ^{and} that force was proportional to motion, he layed the foundation for the Natural Laws that governed the universe. Thus everything had an explanation as everything was proportional and relevant. People would seek explanation of daily occurrences in science.

Such faith in science led to the new theology of the Enlightenment: Deism. A Clockmaker existed but he let the universe take its own course. Such a belief was embraced Voltaire and many other Enlightened thinkers.

Newton's ideas ~~are~~ based in part on Galileo's findings, thus led to the experimental or inductive method, found by Bacon, and the deductive Cartesian model formulated by Descartes. Thus people believed in only what

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could be scientifically proven.

Newton's scientific achievement and Locke's theory on *Tabula Rasa* implanted the idea that people were capable of achieving anything. ~~As~~ This age of optimism (particularly among the middle and upper classes) led to a ~~new~~ ^{strengthened} treatment of the poor. Poverty, was deemed by Enlightenment thinkers (as of the humanists) to be caused by laziness. Such issues and opinions ~~to~~ were discussed in salons and intellectual settings.

Finally, thanks to Newton, science was treated with respect and became a field that until the age of new physics would play a huge role in intellectual society. The Royal Society of London and such other institutions would for the first time received widespread recognition.

Thus Locke and Newton set the premise of the intellectual thinking of the Enlightenment. Their works and ideas would dominate until the age of anxiety of the 1920s - 1930s.

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The ideas of seventeenth-century thinkers

John Locke and Isaac Newton contributed to the ideas of ~~the~~ eighteenth-century Enlightenment thinkers in ~~profound ways that~~ groundbreaking ways which allowed further profound intellectual discoveries and accomplishments.

John Locke published in 1689, ~~the~~ ^{Two} ~~The~~ ~~treatises~~ of ~~the~~ ~~Government~~ which underlined the fact that a government had to give its citizens the rights to life, liberty and property. This idea would ensure that the citizens would get to keep the basic rights that they were entitled to since birth. A groundbreaking idea that Locke came up with was the concept that everybody was born with a tabula rasa - a blank slate. This idea meant that people were born with a blank slate and had to accumulate their being through learning and experiences instead of the previous ideas of men being born evil (Thomas Hobbes thought this) ^{a lot of} right from the beginning. John Locke was so influential that Enlightenment thinkers of the eighteenth century based their discoveries and ideas on Locke's theories. ~~But~~ Baron de Montesquieu for example came up with the idea of a government with a balanced power that ensured the rights of its citizens - just like Locke said. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a French philosopher wrote a book, Emile (on education), to disprove

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Locke's theory of the tabula rasa. Rousseau claimed that children shouldn't be considered as miniature adults and should be nurtured and cared for from ~~the~~ birth - preferably without tainting the small children with society's corruption for as long as possible. Rousseau was the first person to suggest that children should be specially cared for because they aren't miniature adults and a whole different sort of human. Rousseau was a very influential Philosopher because he ~~was~~ ~~the~~ could be seen as the father of ~~total~~ ^{communism} ~~totalitarianism~~ as well as democracy. While Locke thought that property was a ~~the~~ natural right for each man, Rousseau disputed this idea by saying that property is the cause of evil and corruption in societies.

Isaac Newton was so influential to the eighteenth century enlightenment thinkers because he changed ~~to~~ the cosmology of the world! Before Newton, people believed the Aristotelian - Ptolemaic ~~was~~ cosmology where the earth was made up of four elements - earth, water, fire and air. But through Newton and his profound discoveries - what with the laws of gravity - his Newtonian laws changed how people ~~perceived~~ ~~the~~ perceived the universe. ~~the~~ Thus, the Newtonian cosmology was accepted and it led to the assertion that the ~~the~~ universe wasn't a mystery but an understandable

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thing. Optimism spread because of Newton. Optimism in the sense that people believed that there were fixed laws that defined everything in the universe. Newton made more scientific breakthroughs to be ~~possible~~ possible in the eighteenth century by changing the ~~own~~ perceived cosmology of the universe completely.

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The Enlightenment was a period of new thought, philosophy, and ideas. In every field, new ways of thinking were being explored. These eighteenth-century thinkers were strongly influenced by various seventeenth-century thinkers as well, such as John Locke and Isaac Newton. These two men, who made influential explorations of political philosophy and science, acted as stable grounds to build ideas off of for the men of the Enlightenment.

John Locke created the idea of a social contract that people must enter in order to become a part of society.

AP[®] EUROPEAN HISTORY
2010 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 6

Sample: 6A

Score: 8

The thesis of this essay addresses both aspects of the question. It presents a sophisticated discussion of Locke with multiple pieces of supporting evidence, connecting Locke to both Rousseau and Diderot. The discussion of Newton is adequate, with supporting evidence provided. The essay connects Newton to Voltaire, though much of the discussion is on Deism. This essay is a bit unbalanced, tending to focus more on Locke than on Newton, but it is more sophisticated and insightful than essays that earned lower scores.

Sample: 6B

Score: 5

This essay provides a solid thesis. It discusses the contributions of both Locke and Newton. It provides multiple examples to support the discussion of Locke, who is connected to two Enlightenment thinkers, Montesquieu and Rousseau. Multiple examples also support the discussion of Newton. There is no connection made, however, between Newton and Enlightenment thinkers. This essay did not earn a higher score because of the failure to link Newton to the Enlightenment. However, it has a sophisticated discussion of both Locke and Newton and makes good connections between Locke and the Enlightenment.

Sample: 6C

Score: 1

The thesis of this essay merely restates the question. The essay is too brief and underdeveloped. It shows no evidence of any effort or any deep understanding of the question. It earned a score of 1 point because the thesis is on task and relevant.