



Some really good ideas,  
but awkwardly organized

**LEQ #6: (Causation)** How did the social and political conditions in the 18th Western Europe prior to 1788 influence the ideas of the Enlightenment.

### Introduction:

The Enlightenment was a major intellectual movement in Europe. It was the movement of people or ideas that fostered the idea that change and reform is both possible and desirable. Society began to become increasingly progressive as it moved towards a democracy. A shift from traditional beliefs, people began to emphasize reason and the idea of individual rights (**contextualization**). Social and political conditions prior to 1788 shaped the ideas of the Enlightenment (restatement). **Socially**, the ideas of Newton and Locke shaped the ideas of the Enlightenment (X). **Politically**, the progressive and advanced society of Great Britain influenced the ideas in the Enlightenment (Y).

### Body Paragraph #1:

**Topic Sentence:** Intellectual thinkers such as Newton and Locke were the predecessors of the Enlightenment and influenced ideas.

### Evidence:

- ❖ **Isaac Newton:** Newton formulated the law of universal gravitation. Additionally, he demonstrated that the universe is controlled by universal laws which can be demonstrated through mathematical formulas.
- ❖ **John Locke:** Locke formed the theory of "tabula rasa" which translates to "blank slate" He argued that experience molds people; knowledge is derived from experience. Therefore human development is shaped by educational and social institutions.

### Analysis:

- ❖ **The Effect of Newton:** His discoveries exemplified how powerful the human mind is. This encouraged Europeans to approach nature directly and with logic instead of supernaturalism and abstract concepts. Newton insisted on using mathematical or logical formulation in order to check his hypothesis. The emphasis on empirical formulation and concrete experience became prevalent in the Enlightenment.
- ❖ **The Effect of Locke:** The idea of tabula rasa undermined the traditional Christian belief that people were born sinful. People do not have to depend on the divine in order to better their lives instead they can take control of their life. Locke's implication that experience brings about change in character influenced the philosophes' during the Enlightenment to establish educational and social institutions.

What about taxes in France + G. Britain?  
how does that influence Enlightenment?

Body Paragraph #2:

Topic Sentence: The society of Great Britain was a model city and on the other hand French society was in great turmoil, the opposing societies influenced ideas of the Enlightenment.

Evidence:

- ❖ Great Britain had religious toleration, relative freedom of speech and press, authority vested in the monarchy was limited and the nobles paid taxes.
- ❖ France on the other had had absence of religious toleration, thorough literary censorship, over regulation of the economy and aristocratic military values impacted both political and social life in France.

Analysis:

- ❖ Philosophes and reformers began to understand that the liberal policies of Great Britain in fact brought prosperity, stability and a loyal body of citizens. This effect could be seen in their economy as well. England was the leader in the Industrial Revolution in Europe, therefore their economy thrived. For example, their social structure encouraged people to imitate the lifestyle of their social superiors and Britain had the largest free trade area which allowed people to trade without fearing any trade barriers. Thinkers of the Enlightenment for example, Voltaire adopted the idea of freedom of speech. Other thinkers like Montesquieu looked to Britain to form their ideas. In his famous work The Spirit of Laws he provided the example of the British constitution and believed it was the wisest method of power in government. His influential idea of the division of power was derived from Great Britain where he believed that executive power resided in the king, legislative power in Parliament and judicial power in the courts.
- ❖ France was left in strife and was the least progressive especially after the wars of Louis XIV. This left France economically depressed because all of their money was spent on wars, France was also politically weak because there was no form of centralization or strong leadership in the country. Montesquieu believed that in French monarchs possessed too much power so he believed that the Parlements had to limit the monarch's power and preserve the freedom of their subjects.

Conclusion:

The ideas of the Enlightenment were shaped through social and political conditions during the 18th century (restatement). In social terms, Locke and Newton contributed to the ideas of the Enlightenment. Politically, the society of Great Britain and France influenced the ideas of the Enlightenment. During the reign of Peter the Great ideas originating from western Europe influenced the building of Russia. For example, he adopted shipbuilding from the Dutch, navigation from the English, army from Prussia; he talks to powerful figures like Louis XIV and Peter the Great inspected shipyards, docks, and the manufacturing of military hardware (synthesis).

Unclear - b/c in thesis you say political be clear.

Glorious Rev. 1688?

You mixed in both political & social

discuss 3 estates & voting / →

Make clear organize more clearly

you have no x43 here

Could say instead { socially conditions that led to reformation } { politically conditions }

not synthesis