

**Unit 3 Assignment: Political Change****Analyzing Primary Resources and Document-Based Questions**

Using the introductory information, the Primary Sources and your knowledge of history, answer the questions which follow each source. Each question has to be written in essay format and each answer must refer specifically to the Primary Source to support your answer. (5 marks each)

**Laws Protect Freedom:** Both Montesquieu and Rousseau believed firmly that fair and just laws – not monarchs or unrestrained mobs – should govern society. Here, Rousseau argued that laws established by and for the people are the hallmark of a free society.

**PRIMARY SOURCE #1**

I ... therefore give the name “Republic” to every state that is governed by laws, no matter what the form of its administration may be: for only in such a case does the public interest govern, and the *res publica* rank as a *reality*. ... Laws are, properly speaking, only the conditions of civil association. The people, being subject to the laws, ought to be their author: the conditions of the society ought to be regulated ... by those who come together to form it.

**JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU**, *The Social Contract*

1. Why should citizens be the authors of society’s laws, according to Rousseau? Do you agree or disagree? Support your decision.

**Laws Ensure Security:** While laws work to protect citizens from abusive rulers, Montesquieu argues that they also guard against anarchy and mob rule.

**PRIMARY SOURCE #2**

It is true that in democracies the people seem to act as they please; but political liberty does not consist in an unlimited freedom. . . . We must have continually present to our minds the difference between independence and liberty. Liberty is a right of doing whatever the laws permit, and if a citizen could do what they [the laws] forbid he would be no longer possessed of liberty, because all his fellow-citizens would have the same power.

**BARON DE MONTESQUIEU, *The Spirit of Laws***

2. Why does Montesquieu believe that disobeying laws leads to a loss of liberty? Is he right? Why or why not?

**Literary writers** of the Enlightenment often used satire to comment on European values. Using wit and humour, they ridiculed various ideas and customs. Satire allowed writers to explore human faults in a way that is powerful, but not preachy.

**PRIMARY SOURCE #3**

**Voltaire**

Voltaire wrote *Candide* (1759) to attack a philosophy called Optimism, which held that all is right with the world. The hero of the story, a young man named Candide, encounters the most awful disasters and human evils. In this passage, Candide meets a slave in South America, who explains why he is missing a leg and a hand.

“When we’re working at the sugar mill and catch our finger in the grinding-wheel, they cut off our hand. When we try to run away, they cut off a leg. I have been in both of these situations. This is the price you pay for the sugar you eat in Europe. ...

“The Dutch fetishes [i.e., missionaries] who converted me [to Christianity] tell me every Sunday that we are all the sons of Adam, Whites and Blacks alike. I am no genealogist, but if these preachers are right, we are all cousins born of first cousins. Well, you will grant me that you can’t treat a relative much worse than this.”

3. What is the main point that Voltaire is making in Source A? What techniques does he use to reinforce his message? How might this type of writing impact a reader’s perspective on political ideas of the day?

**Women:** During the 1700s, Mary Wollstonecraft challenged the idea that women should only prepare for life as wives and mothers. In her writings, she also argued that women's education should not be secondary to men's, but that women, like men, need a good education to become virtuous and useful in society.

**Primary Source #4**

**Wollstonecraft**

"The divine right of husbands, like the divine right of kings, may, it is hoped, in this enlightened age, be contested without danger."

"Women ought to have representatives, instead of being arbitrarily governed without any direct share allowed them in the deliberations of government."

"Strengthen the female mind by enlarging it, and there will be an end to blind obedience."

"If women be educated for dependence; that is, to act according to the will of another fallible being, and submit, right or wrong, to power, where are we to stop?"

4. How has Wollstonecraft, as an Enlightenment Thinker and writer, challenged long-held ideas about society? Is there any impact of her work for today's society? Explain.