4 x Student Exemplars

This work is from a previous year. It wouldn’t get an HD now as it doesn’t include a digital visual or aural annotation.

| Topic: The Age of Enlightenment in France | Identify the type of source (book, journal article, website, webpage, oral source, documentary film, podcast, etc):
Webpage |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indicate how you located the source (via a database such as Onesearch, Proquest, Informit, J-Stor or other means):
Web searches via Google search engine using specified search terms |
| Citation (in APA style)
| Summary (75-100 words)
The summary should be brief and highlight the key arguments and ideas contained in the source
According to Bleiberg et al., Paris was the centre of the Enlightenment in France. From around 1715 to 1760 tea rooms and salons were where the intellectual giants of the time gathered and discussed their views, theories and discoveries. These intellectuals became known as the philosophes. Pre-eminent amongst them was Voltaire who represented the model Enlightenment figure. However, it was Diderot and d’Alembert who were to edit the outstanding piece of work at the time; the Encyclopedie. The import of the 28 volumes and supplements of which the final Encyclopedie consisted was to echo the words of Francis Bacon: “human life could be made better through knowledge”.
| Evaluation of the reliability and credibility of the source. (75-100 words)
Evaluation should consider:
- the credentials of the author or creator
- the credentials of the publisher
- the scope or comprehensiveness of the information on the topic
- the quality and number of works referenced in the source
- if any statistics or other quantitative data are tabulated or referred to
- the quality of images, illustrations, maps or other visual material and whether this material deepens and expands the analysis
The website demonstrates its credibility using images from the period, table of contents, excellent referencing and non-commercialization. The source is objective in that it clearly offers differing views of the time. The goal of the source is to educate tertiary students in the humanities and in this case the period of French Enlightenment.
| An Assessment of the usefulness of the source for your research towards Assessment Task 2 (approx. 50 words)
The information found in the source explains the significance of the philosophes’ actions in compiling a defining work known as the Encyclopedie. This body of work was written for the public and by the late 1700s over 25,000 sets were in circulation across France and Europe. With the onset of scientific discoveries and academic thought, the public had a new ‘lens’ through which to see their world.
| DOCUMENTATION:
For PRINT sources, attach a scan of the publication details - either the verso page of the book; verso and contents page for a book chapter; first page and abstract of a journal article - and note the attachments here: N/A
OR, for an online source, give the URL here (NB: screen shots of webpages are not acceptable): http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3427400901/SUIC?u=la99595&xid=c85d61da
| Additional references (include here references for any sources you have cited for supporting information in your annotation): N/A
| Word count: 249 |
Topic: The Age of Enlightenment in France

Identify the type of source (book, journal article, website, webpage, oral source, documentary film, podcast, etc): e-book

Indicate how you located the source (via a database such as Onesearch, Proquest, Informit, J-Stor or other means): OneSearch

Citation (in APA style)

Summary (75-100 words)
The summary should be brief and highlight the key arguments and ideas contained in the source.

The origins of the Enlightenment are presented as an intellectual discussion that heightened into a ‘Quarrel’ between the proponents of the ‘Ancients’ versus proponents of the ‘Moderns’. The ‘Quarrel’ grew into an argument about the significance of new discoveries in science, reviews of history and the workings of culture in early modern France. Edelstein sets out objectively to demonstrate that while there existed huge differences of views between the ‘Ancients’ and the ‘Moderns’, there also existed a similarity in that both were ‘societies’ of people who thought about knowledge, history, religion, politics and society more broadly. With seminal works such as the Encyclopedie, Edelstein notes the large numbers of citations of ‘Ancients’, while Voltaire, in his Gens de Lettres, acknowledges the modern ‘esprit philosophique’ as the natural successor to the earlier erudite “critique”.

Evaluation of the reliability and credibility of the source. (75-100 words)
Evaluation should consider:
- the credentials of the author or creator
- the credentials of the publisher
- the scope or comprehensiveness of the information on the topic
- the quality and number of works referenced in the source
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The 16 chapters comprehensively cover philosophical and scientific debates, and the institutional influences of universities and censorship, and the manners and politics of the debates in the tea rooms. Edelstein’s goal appears to be that of an adjudicator who is apportioning respect to both sides of the ‘Quarrel’. The book is published by a leading academic publisher, University of Chicago Press, and the author, Edelstein, is Associate Professor of French at Stanford University and the author of two earlier books on the period of the French Enlightenment and French Revolution (University of Chicago Press n.d.)

An Assessment of the usefulness of the source for your research towards Assessment Task 2 (approx. 50 words)
A palpable paradigm shift in ‘real time’ in Enlightenment France is explored in the book, whereby the modern scholars or philosophes claim the new world of knowing through changes in science and critical thinking.

DOCUMENTATION:
For PRINT sources, attach a scan of the publication details - either the verso page of the book; verso and contents page for a book chapter; first page and abstract of a journal article - and note the attachments here: See page 3
OR, for an online source, give the URL here (NB: screen shots of webpages are not acceptable):

Additional references (include here references for any sources you have cited for supporting information in your annotation):

Word count: 261
**Topic:** The Age of Enlightenment in France

**Identify the type of source (book, journal article, website, webpage, oral source, documentary film, podcast, etc):** Journal article

**Indicate how you located the source (via a database such as Onesearch, Proquest, Informit, J-Stor or other means):** OneSearch

**Citation (in APA style)**

**Summary (75-100 words)**
The summary should be brief and highlight the key arguments and ideas contained in the source

This article deals with the pressure applied to the Roman Catholic Church by French philosophers during the Enlightenment period. France was in religious turmoil as the Church struggled to come to terms with the overwhelming change in knowledge due to scientific discoveries. Philosophers were determined to cleanse the Church of legend and superstition by using modern science as opposed to the erudite practice of scholasticism to bring about a return to the “primitive truth”. The quality of close analysis is suggested by the way the terms ‘erudite’ and ‘erudition’ are shown to change in meaning and acquire a derogatory undertone. The author points to the 1751 discourse to the *Encyclopédie* where Jean le Rond d’Alembert omitted the word ‘erudition’ from the sphere of reason on three occasions.

**Evaluation of the reliability and credibility of the source. (75-100 words)**

Evaluation should consider:
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- the credentials of the publisher
- the scope or comprehensiveness of the information on the topic
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The *Huntington Library Quarterly* demands a rigorous peer-review program and the institution awards 120-130 grants each year to scholars in the fields of history, literature, art, and the history of science. The author, Quantin, is a Director of Studies, and scholar of religion and history at the Sorbonne University in France (School of High Studies, n.d.).

**An Assessment of the usefulness of the source for your research towards Assessment Task 2 (approx. 50 words)**

The content in the article will assist in explaining the shift in the way of knowing what occurred within the Catholic Church during the Enlightenment. Theology gave little relevance to reason prior to the Enlightenment relying on tradition and its own authority to bridge any logical fallacies. The author reflects on Tillemont’s suggestion that reason needed only to recognise its own limitation and that erudition. Like the learning of theology, stood external to the realm of reason.

**DOCUMENTATION:**
For PRINT sources, attach a scan of the publication details - either the verso page of the book; verso and contents page for a book chapter; first page and abstract of a journal article - and note the attachments here: N/A OR, for an online source, give the URL here (NB: screen shots of webpages are not acceptable):
doi:10.1525/hlq.2011.74.3.401

Additional references (include here references for any sources you have cited for supporting information in your annotation):

**Word count:** 254
Reason and Reasonableness in French Ecclesiastical Scholarship

Jean-Louis Quantin

Abstract: Enlightenment philosophers, who pushed ecclesiastical scholarship to the margins of French culture, denigrated it as impervious to reason and entirely based on memory. In the seventeenth century, however, the historical and philological criticism practiced by such French scholars as Jean Mabillon (1632–1707) and Sébastien Le Nain de Tillemont (1637–1698) appealed to an elaborate epistemology that was much influenced by Cartesianism. Moreover, they aimed at purifying Catholicism from what they regarded as legendary and superstitious accretions, bringing it back to primitive truth. Jean-Louis Quantin argues that, judging by the cultural values of their own time, these scholars were both intensely religious and eminently reasonable. Keywords: Cornelius Jansen; Jean Le Rond d'Alembert; Jean de La Font; François Lamy; Port-Royal Logic

It is well known that érudition, particularly when pursued by members of religious orders, occupied a low status in the French Enlightenment division of knowledge. The words érudit and érudition were redefined at the time, and both terms acquired slightly pejorative connotations, which they have kept in French until the present day. Dictionaries of synonyms—a major interest of Enlightenment linguistics—offer clues to these revised meanings. Condillac, in the one that he compiled about 1760 for the education of the prince of Parma, explained that érudition was


1. The word has no exact English equivalent. It refers both to (primarily historical and philological) scholarship and to erudition.
### Topic: The Age of Enlightenment in France

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#### Citation (in APA style)


#### Summary (75-100 words)

The summary should be brief and highlight the key arguments and ideas contained in the source.

The main argument is to provide a fresh perspective on the role that the major philosophes played in relation to politics during the French Revolution amidst the political turmoil regarding the absolute monarch, Louis XIV. Rasmussen explains the ongoing misconception that leading thinkers of the time Voltaire and Diderot were political rationalists, but rather, they both rejected an idea of a single rational political order. The concept of this period as being an “age of reason” is debated due to Voltaire and Diderot’s belief that reason alone could not and should not govern. He argues that neither philosopher was a definite rationalist as they wanted to deconstruct the establishment and start over and advocated for gradual and staged reform rather than wholesale transformation.

#### Evaluation of the reliability and credibility of the source. (75-100 words)

Evaluation should consider:
- the credentials of the author or creator
- the credentials of the publisher
- the scope or comprehensiveness of the information on the topic
- the quality and number of works referenced in the source
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Rasmussen argues analytically by drawing from literature of the period written by many leading philosophers including Montesquieu, Malby, Morelly and Helvetius amongst many others, in addition to referencing contemporary research about the Enlightenment in more than 100 endnotes to the article. The *Review of Politics* is a leading peer-reviewed academic journal published by Cambridge University Press. The author, Rasmussen, is Associate Professor of Political Science at Tufts University in the United States and the author of several academic books about the political philosophy of the period of the Enlightenment in France.

#### An Assessment of the usefulness of the source for your research towards Assessment Task 2 (approx. 50 words)

This article is invaluable as a source which outlines contrasting views of some of the key actors of the time in critically analysing and revisiting their views and beliefs which have until now been taken for granted. Voltaire and Diderot certainly condemned the excesses and abuses of the throne and church, however any criticism of their works does not show rationalism, radicalism or even utopianism.

#### DOCUMENTATION:

For PRINT sources, attach a scan of the publication details - either the verso page of the book; verso and contents page for a book chapter; first page and abstract of a journal article - and note the attachments here: N/A OR, for an online source, give the URL here (NB: screen shots of webpages are not acceptable):

Additional references (include here references for any sources you have cited for supporting information in your annotation):

**Word count:** 277
Burning Laws and Strangling Kings?  
Voltaire and Diderot on the Perils of Rationalism in Politics  

Dennis C. Rasmussen

Abstract: The thinkers of the French Enlightenment are frequently depicted as political rationalists, meaning that they advocated subjecting all laws, institutions, and practices to the withering light of reason, and discarding those found wanting by its standards. However, two of the most prominent philosophers, Voltaire and Diderot, were in fact opponents of the kind of political rationalism that they are often thought to have embraced. Both of these thinkers rejected the idea of a single “rational” political order, advocated gradual reform rather than wholesale change, and denied that the steady application of reason could produce inevitable or endless progress. In effect the Enlightenment was a “revolt against rationalism” (as Peter Gay has called it) not only in the epistemological, psychological, and ethical spheres, but also in the political one.

Despite the seemingly unshakable moniker “The Age of Reason,” it has long been known, at least among those familiar with the scholarly literature on the period, that almost none of the key thinkers who made up the Enlightenment believed that reason alone could or should rule the world. On the contrary, most of the leading thinkers of the eighteenth century held that it is not reason but the passions or sentiments that serve as both the chief motivating force of human action and the ultimate basis from which moral norms are derived. Hence, as Sylvana Tomaselli writes, “it would be mistaken to think of reason as the rallying cry of Enlightenment thinkers except in so far as it was opposed to faith, and the Age of Reason opposed to the Age of Superstition. If one’s gaze shifts away from the battles with the Inflame, then the ‘Age of Sentiments,’ ‘Sentimentality,’ ‘Feelings,’ ‘Passions,’ ‘Pleasure,’ ‘Love’ or ‘Imagination’ are apter titles for the movement of ideas in the eighteenth century.” Moreover, Enlightenment thinkers were consistent—even obsessive—in their denigration and mocking of system-building. They advocated relying on experience and experiment rather than on a priori first principles, and, so far from having boundless confidence in the power of unaided reason, they continually stressed the limits and fallibility of human