**Frederick Douglass Academy**

**Advanced Placement European History**

**Mr. Murphy**

**Chapter 17: The Age of Enlightenment**

**Homework #9 517 – 527 Stop at “Women in Enlightenment Thought”**

**Due Friday, November 15, 2013**

This section may feel a bit of all over the place, but the central focus on Enlightenment thinkers, conditions which supported or conflicted with Enlightenment thought, as well as the various ways that the Enlightenment would be demonstrated in varied societies and cultures will remain the same.

1. A key section, right off the bat, deals with two famous Jewish Philosophers of this age, Baruch Spinoza and Moses Mendelsohn. Critical to understanding this section is your consideration of how the Jews were societal exiles, and the differing ways these thinkers saw themselves in relationship to established Judaism at this time.
2. The next section dealing with Enlightenment thought and Islam is curious on a number of levels. Thought Islam kept remained purposefully isolated from the West, the reverse was not necessarily true. We see intolerance and curiosity, even admiration from Western Thinkers towards Islam.
3. The publication of Diderot’s *Encyclopedia*, a secular bible if you will, exemplifies the importance of academia and learning at this time, as well as the growth of print culture.
4. Physiocrats, philosophers who dealt with economic issues, would play a key role in this period. Adam Smith, with the publication of *Wealth of Nations*, ushered in a new era of Economic growth, in opposition to the status quo of mercantile economies.
5. Baron von Montesquieu’s *Spirit of The Laws* will be a seminal and revolutionary work in reference to the continued debate over the nature of the Social Contract between a government and those that they govern.
6. Jean Jacques Rousseau will be, arguably, the most radical, as the most anti-Enlightenment enlightenment thinker. His concept of the “General Will” proposed in his *Social Contract,* is a critical idea we have to discuss.
7. Lastly, in this age of the growth of European Empires, and the exploitation of native populations, many thinkers will use this newfound Reason and Tolerance to call into question established practices in mercantile economies that denigrate and oppress other cultures and peoples.

**Questions:**

1. What was so radical about Spinoza’s reliance on Reason in relationship to the Bible, and how was Mendelsohn a more mainstream interpreter of the role of reason and its relationship to Judaism?
2. What were the primary criticisms leveled against Islam by Enlightenment thinkers, and provide also some of the more tolerant, even laudatory views on Islam by the West.
3. What was it about the Encyclopedia that made it a perfect representation of the Enlightenment Era?
4. What were two primary criticisms Adam Smith leveled against mercantilism, and bullet point Smith’s “four-stage theory” of economic development?
5. Provide the core ideas presented by Montesquieu in his *Spirit of the Laws.*
6. Explain the idea, as it applied to jean Jacques Rousseau, that Man can be “forced to be free”
7. Provide at least three critiques Enlightenment thinkers had concerning the growing colonial empires, and the concomitant exploitation of native populations.

**Document *Analysis:*** *Adam Smith Call For Government Action To Support The Education Of The Poor. (*Two paragraphs outlining Smith’s primary argument concerning the need for an educated populace.)