The Enlightenment



Name _____ Date _____

1 Recall, then make a connection.

Start from memory. Write a meaning or quick example for each term.

Consent	Separation of powers	Natural rights

Connect consent, separation of powers, and natural rights in an argument about government. Why should a historian examine exclusions as well as the principles written in a charter?

Context for the task

Enlightenment thinkers debated knowledge, authority, rights, and the purposes of government. They did not form one party with one identical program. Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws examined political systems and arrangements of power. Arguments about consent and natural rights influenced political movements, but influence must be traced through particular texts and decisions.

2 Organize the records.

Promise or rule?

Classify the charter excerpts by their role.

Sort the statements.

A. Announced principle

B. Operating rule

Write the category letter beside each record.

1. ___ Government should protect liberty.

2. ___ Only property-owning men may vote.

3. ___ Authority should rest on consent.

4. ___ The ruler can dismiss the council at will.

5. ___ An independent court reviews certain official actions.

Evidence, application & transfer.



3 Read the evidence closely.

Who can challenge the claim?

The charter claims all adults share equal political participation.

Select all records that challenge that claim.

A. The voting clause excludes adults without property.

B. A petition from women requests access to the vote denied by the rules.

C. The council meets in a large hall.

D. The charter uses the wordliberty in its title.

Selections: _____ Explain your reasoning:

4 Apply the idea.

A defensible revision

Which proposal most directly addresses the unchecked override without claiming to solve every inequality?

Choose the best match.

A. Require independent review under defined rules before the ruler cancels a council decision.

B. Let the ruler appoint and dismiss every reviewer without any restriction.

C. Expand council voting eligibility but retain the ruler's unlimited power to cancel its decisions.

My choice: _____ Explain why it fits:

5 Carry the idea forward.

Write a charter-review note explaining one Enlightenment-related principle, one institutional contradiction, and a specific repair. Include a remaining exclusion the repair does not solve.