ATL: Research and thinking skills

THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Seventeenth Century Enlightenment
1. What radical ideas did Hobbes have regarding the power of monarchs?
2. Why did Locke believe that all people are equal?
3. According to Locke, why do people enter into a ‘social contract’?
4. What is the purpose of such a contract?
5. When can this contract be broken?

Descartes
6. What was Descartes’ obsession regarding philosophy?
7. What was his most famous ‘truth’?
8. How did his ideas challenge ‘traditional’ thinking?

The Philosophes
9. Who were the philosophes? Give some examples of the French people who were part of this movement.
10. What were the three main ideas of the philosophe movement?
11. What were Voltaire’s views on religion?
12. What did he believe should be the relationship between the secular side of the state and the religious side of the state?
13. What was the point of the Encyclopedia?
14. What did Montesquieu mean by a government that had ‘checks and balances’?

Jean-Jacques Rousseau
15. What is the first sentence of Rousseau’s most famous work, ‘The Social Contract’?
16. What do you think he meant by this?
17. What kind of contract does Rousseau believe should exist between rulers and the ruled?
18. What was the importance of these ideas?