**INFLUENCES FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT | BARON DE MONTESQUIEU**

**Sample Answers**

**According to the text, what document did Montesquieu influence? U.S. Constitution**

| **Concept** | **Evidence from Text** | **Definition in your own words** | **Visual Representation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **separation of powers** | The English government had three parts: a king to enforce laws, Parliament to create laws, and courts to interpret laws. The government was divided into parts, and each part had its own purpose. | Separation of powers is when the government is divided into parts and each part has its own purpose. |  |
| **checks and balances** | Each part of the government needed to be balanced with the other parts. ..he suggested that each branch have the ability to limit the power of the other two branches. | Checks and balances means that the branches of government are balances and each branch can limit the power of the other two. |  |

| **According to the text, how did Montesquieu define liberty and how did he explain the relationship between liberty and government? What evidence in the text led you to your answer?** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** | **Answer** |
| Montesquieu believed that liberty is the peace of mind that comes from being safe.  He believed safety can only exist if everyone follows the law. If governments could provide and enforce clear laws that everyone would follow, it would increase liberty, reduce the problems of society, and improve human life. | According to Montesquieu, liberty is the feeling of safety. This feeling of safety comes when government provides and enforces clear laws that everyone can follow. |

| **According to the text, how did Montesquieu’s ideas influence the U.S. Constitution? What evidence in the text led you to your answer?** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence from Text** | **Answer** |
| James Madison.. liked the idea that each branch of government should have a clear role. As a result, the U.S. Constitution clearly explains what each branch is supposed to do: Congress makes laws, the President enforces laws, and the Courts interpret laws. Each branch has the power to check, or limit, the other branches. | Due to Montesquieu’s influence, the U.S. Constitution has set up our government into three separate branches that have the power to check and balance each other. |
| **Impact of Montesquieu’s Influence:** Without Montesquieu’s influence, we would not have the system of government that we have today. The ideas of separation of powers and checks and balances are vital to making our country function. | |