Reason and common sense

Generally regarded as a golden age, the 18th century in England was called 'Augustan' after the period of Roman history which had achieved political **(0)** STABILITY and power as well as a flourishing of the arts. — **STABLE**

In fact, it was an age of wise **(1)** ..... , of elegance and wit, but also a distinctive moment in the making of modern England. It was a **(2)** ..... society – worldly, pragmatic, **(3)** ..... to economic pressure. — **TRADITION** / **MATERIAL** / **RESPONSE**

Yet, its political institutions were **(4)** ..... , hereditary and privileged. Elections were largely controlled by the local landowners since voting was not secret; politicians were not concerned about winning over the electorate, but with **(5)** ..... it either with money or with the promise of jobs. — **HIERARCHY** / **BRIBE**

Society in the 18th century championed **(6)** ..... , seizing opportunities in the sectors of economy which provided scope for initiative, enterprise and enrichment. — **INDIVIDUAL**

It was in many ways an **(7)** ..... free and open age. Enlightened thinkers, from the philosopher John Locke (1632–1704) to journalists such as Joseph Addison (1672–1719), rejected the strict and pessimistic values of Puritanism, like original sin and the depravity of man. Liberal thought influenced the new view of the world and affirmed free will, salvation for all, the goodness of mankind and its capacity for progress. — **ORDINARY**

(8) ..... encouraged faith in progress and human perfectibility, and made people eager to try new ways, trusting their own powers: reason, which made them different from animals, and common sense. — **OPTIMISTIC**



2

LIVEWORKSHEETS