1. The Age of Revolution was the time period beginning with the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and ending with the First Reform Bill of 1832.

2. The English Bill of Rights of 1689 limited the power of the monarchy.
3. During the English industrial revolution the economy changed from *agricultural* to *industrial* as the cottage industries and the population moved into the *cities*.

4. The most important revolution was in the *mind*—a moral and spiritual revolution. The age exalted *reason* over divine *revelation*. This was the beginning of secular *humanism*. 
5. There was a reaction to the degeneracy of the age, however, and it was based upon the work of the Wesley brothers, who laid a foundation through gospel songs/hymns and sermon’s for the nation’s expansion.
Introduction

1. During this period, reason, or rationalism, was the prevalent attitude.

2. Educated people thought reason finally ruled and that they lived in an age of Enlightenment in the late seventeenth century and most of the 18th. Since writers such as Alexander Pope and Dryden patterned their writing after authors who lived during the rule of the Roman Augustus, they called themselves Augustans.
Political Events

1. England remained **strong** in spite of the threats of war and war between 1688 and 1785.

2. With foreign trouble such as the invasion from **Scotland** and internal problems between the Whig and **Tory** parties, England stayed in turmoil.
Social and Economic Conditions

1. As England changed from an agricultural nation to an industrial nation, the common man had to make the greatest adjustments.

2. The society had two large divisions: the agricultural division and the commercial-professional division. Wealthy landed gentry and poor tenant farmers and workers made up the agricultural segment, while businessmen of different classes plus merchants and governmental officers were in the commercial-professional segment.
3. **London** was the commercial hub of England.

4. England’s Parliament consisted of the House of Lords (great **nobles**) and the House of **Commons** (the gentry and commercial and professional men).

5. England’s control of the **sea**, her expanding **empire**, and the improvement of highways all encouraged the industrial evolution.
6. New inventions such as the steam engine of James Watt and the automated spinning process of James Hargreaves, Richard Arkwright, and Samuel Crompton boosted textile manufacturing.

7. An economic revolution occurred as Parliament released land previously owned by the government to private owners. Wealthy landowners expanded their estates while small farmers were displaced, many moving to cities.
Religion

1. True evangelicalism had become passé, and in the Anglican church rationalism ruled.

2. The Anglican clergy believed any person baptized as an infant was saved, and thus baptism as well as the Lord’s Supper contributes to a person’s salvation.
3. Rationalists believed reason should direct a person, not the Bible.

4. With the intellectual religion of the deists, man could correct his shortcomings through more education, man was rewarded and punished after death according to his good and bad/evil deeds, and God created the world but then left it on its own to function.
5. John Wesley and George Whitfield wanted to revive the Anglican church.

6. Wesleyanism influenced England in various ways: spiritually, it laid a foundation for the moral Victorian times and encouraged faith in God; industrially, it lessened the bad effects of the industrial revolution (child labor laws).
Culture

1. Man believed that reason, whose source was God, would lead him to happiness.

2. The reasonable man thought what society wanted was all-important.

3. To a Christian, God’s wisdom is greater than man’s reasoning, and God constantly directs in the life of His creations.
4. Grammatical correctness originated in the eighteenth century through systematized English with logical rules.

5. Samuel Johnson’s *Dictionary of the English Language*, with its complete definitions, helped establish accurate usage in vocabulary and spelling.

6. During this period the modern British spoken English became distinct from the American spoken English.

8. John Locke propounded his philosophy of empiricism in his work *Essay on Human Understanding*. He believed people could know only what they could sense. Locked defended the Glorious Revolution in his work *Two Treatises of Government*. 
9. Rationalism also appeared in the works of the philosopher David Hume, the historian Edward Gibbon, the economist Adam Smith, and the political scientist Jeremy Bentham.

10. In literature, writers believed observation should lead to general principles. Literature was divided into different genres and was to delight or to teach.
11. The neoclassical poet was to observe rules such as regularity, exactness, and symmetry as he composed.

12. Dryden, Pope, and Swift all used the popular mode of satire.

13. The main verse form, the heroic couplet, consisted of two rhymed lines written in iambic pentameter.
14. With the rising readership of the middle class, a new profession evolved, journalism.

15. Daniel Defoe wrote the first of a new genre, the novel, which included realism and moralism in its content.
16. Literary taste changed after Alexander Pope’s death, and authors emphasized **emotional** experience.

17. **Samuel Johnson** and his followers remained firm to neoclassical ideals of writing.