BHIC-108 RISE OF MODERN WEST-II
TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

Course code: BHIC-108
Assignment Code: BHIC-108/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Marks: 100

Note: There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all questions in the Sections.

Assignment - I

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1	Define the meaning of Enlightenment and discuss the main ideas of Enlightenment.	20
2	What do you understand by Reformation? Discuss the major trends of Reformation.	20

Assignment - II

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3	Can we call crisis of the seventeenth Century as the general crisis? Explain.	10
4	Discuss the nature of European expansion in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.	10
5	Give a brief account of demographic trends in Europe between 1500 and 1800.	10

Assignment - III

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6	Political theories (Thomas Hobbes and John Locke)	6
7	Main issues of the English Revolution	6
8	Women and Modern Science	6
9	Agrarian evolution in Britain	6
10	Book production	6

1. Define the meaning of Enlightenment and discuss the main ideas of Enlightenment. (20)

Answer

The Enlightenment was an intellectual and cultural movement that gained particular strength in Europe during the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Its thinkers argued that human beings could use reason, criticism and evidence to understand the natural world and improve society. The movement did not possess one fixed doctrine; it was a broad conversation among philosophers, scientists, writers and reformers who questioned the authority of inherited custom and institutions. It was closely associated with the confidence created by the Scientific Revolution and with an expanding public world of books, periodicals and debate.

Enlightenment thinkers did not necessarily reject religion. Many were believers or deists, while others challenged established belief more sharply. What united much of the movement was the conviction that an assertion should be examined rather than accepted only because it came from a monarch, a church or an ancient author. Immanuel Kant later described enlightenment as people's emergence from self-imposed intellectual dependence and encouraged them to use their own understanding.

Reason, observation and progress

The first major idea was the importance of independent reason. René Descartes had earlier encouraged systematic doubt, while Francis Bacon's emphasis on observation and Isaac Newton's explanation of physical laws strengthened faith in rational inquiry. Enlightenment writers applied this attitude to politics, education, law and social practices. They believed that human institutions, unlike unchangeable divine commands, could be studied, criticized and reformed. The idea of progress followed from this: improvements in knowledge, public health, technology and government could make life better. Progress was a possibility to be achieved through reform, not a guarantee that every change would be beneficial.