

## Exercise walk-through

The Age of Progress and Modernity ■ 7.5

eXercise

## You must be able to

- state positivism's claim and its reach
- state the two shifts that produced modernism
- explain why the CED calls this a tension rather than progress
- distinguish two different doubts

## Method — Positivism

The philosophy that **science alone** provides knowledge, emphasising rational and scientific analysis of nature **and human affairs**. Society becomes an object of scientific study.

## Method — Two shifts

In the later nineteenth century a new relativism in values **and** the loss of confidence in the objectivity of knowledge led to modernism in intellectual and cultural life.

## Method — Tension not progress

The confident claim and its collapse are decades apart, which is why the thread is a see-saw. Describing the century as steady progress toward science misstates it.

## Method — Two doubts

Relativism in **values** doubts what is good; loss of confidence in **objectivity** doubts what can be known. Distinguishing them costs nothing and makes an answer precise.

## Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State positivism's claim and its reach.

## Solution 2.1

### Worked steps

that science alone provides knowledge **B1**; reaching both nature and human affairs **B1**.



## Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State the two shifts that produced modernism.

## Solution 2.2

Method: Two shifts

### Worked steps

a new relativism in values **B1**; the loss of confidence in the objectivity of knowledge **B1**.

## Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Two different doubts arise in the later century.

(a) Name them.

(b) State the difference.

## Solution 2.3

### Worked steps

(a) relativism in values **B1**; doubt about the objectivity of knowledge **B1**. (b) one doubts what is good, the other what can be known **B1**.

## Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Positivism holds that knowledge comes from

- A** tradition
- B** science alone
- C** revelation
- D** intuition

## Solution 3.1

Method: Positivism

**A** tradition

**B** science alone



**C** revelation

**D** intuition

### Worked steps

**B.** the strong version of the claim.

## Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Modernism is described by the CED as

- A** a style choice
- B** a consequence of the loss of confidence in objectivity
- C** a scientific method
- D** a political programme

## Solution 3.2

- A** a style choice
- B** a consequence of the loss of confidence in objectivity 
- C** a scientific method
- D** a political programme

### Worked steps

- B.** the CED presents it as a consequence.



## Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A century opens in confidence and closes in doubt.

- (a) State what this shows about the thread.
- (b) Explain why “progress toward science” misdescribes it.

## Solution 3.3

Method: Tension not progress

### Worked steps

(a) that it is a tension rather than a direction **B1**. (b) the strongest claim for science was made and then collapsed within decades **B1**, so the century ends further from confident objectivity than it began **B1**.