

1.4 Printing

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS printing 印刷术

Objective

Build the skills to explain the effects of **printing** 印刷术.

You must be able to:

- state what printing changed about the production of texts
- explain its effect on the spread of ideas
- describe how it affected vernacular languages
- avoid claiming printing caused every later development

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ What changed

Identical copies could be produced in quantity at falling cost. Manuscript copying had produced divergent, expensive texts; print produced standard, cheaper ones.

■ Spread of ideas

An idea could reach many places quickly and could not easily be suppressed once printed in quantity. That changed the balance between authorities and their critics.

■ Vernaculars

Printing in vernacular languages standardised spelling and grammar and widened the reading public beyond those who knew Latin.

■ Not a single cause

Printing enabled and accelerated; it did not by itself cause the Reformation or the Scientific Revolution. Say what it made possible and what still required other conditions.

2 Practice

2.1 State two things printing changed about text production. [2]

2.2 Explain how printing affected vernacular languages. [2]

2.3 A student writes: “Printing caused the Reformation.”

(a) State why this overstates. [1]

(b) Write a more defensible sentence. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Compared with manuscript copying, printing produced texts that were [1]

- **A** more divergent and more expensive
- **B** standard and cheaper
- **C** rarer
- **D** unreadable

3.2 Printing shifted the balance between authorities and critics because [1]

- **A** critics could be silenced more easily
- **B** printed material in quantity could not easily be suppressed
- **C** authorities owned all presses
- **D** nobody could read

3.3 A pamphlet is printed in 4,000 copies in three weeks.

(a) State one consequence for the authorities. [1]

(b) Explain what other condition was needed for it to have effect.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 identical copies rather than divergent ones; greater quantity at lower cost.

2.2 it standardised spelling and grammar and widened the reading public beyond those who knew Latin.

2.3 (a) printing enabled and accelerated the spread of reform ideas but did not by itself produce them. (b) a sentence distinguishing enabling from causing, e.g. “Printing allowed reform arguments to spread faster than authorities could answer them”.

3.1 B. standardisation and lower cost are the two changes.

3.2 B. quantity made suppression impractical.

3.3 (a) suppression becomes impractical once copies are dispersed. (b) a public able and willing to read it, which required vernacular printing and a grievance the text spoke to.