Literacy Lowdown
To advance your wider reading

A Level students should:

- undertake wider reading.
- use factual texts and discursive/creative material.

Summary

Part 4 The Scientific Revolution starts with Alamogordo, 16 July 1945, 05:29:53. Eight seconds after the first atomic bomb was detonated. The nuclear physicist Robert Oppenheimer, upon seeing the explosion utters ‘now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds’. To summarise recent history, I prefer the later quote ‘any attempt to define the characteristics of modern society is akin to defining the colour of a chameleon. The only characteristic of which we can be certain is the incessant change’.

 Specification Links

Yet the industrial revolution was above all else the Second Agricultural Revolution…farm animals stopped being viewed as living creatures that could feel pain and distress, and instead came to be treated as machines p382 OCR 1.b. How food production methods vary from intensive to extensive and subsistence to commercial. The European imperial expeditions transformed the history of the world: from being a series of histories of isolated people and cultures, it became the history of a single integrated human society p322 Edexcel 3.1 Globalisation is a long-standing process. Over the last 500 years the idea of progress convinced people to put more and more trust in the future. This trust created credit p347 AQA 3.2.1.2 and Eduqas 2.2.1 Growth of Global Systems

Key Quotes

The crucial step was our willingness to admit ignorance. Admission of ignorance was married to the idea that scientific discoveries could give us new powers. The Discovery of Ignorance p295

During the last five centuries, humans increasingly came to believe that they could increase their capabilities by investing in scientific research p278. The Scientific Revolution’s feedback loop; dependent on mutual reinforcement between politics (institutional support), economics (investment) and science (providing in return new powers to obtain new resources, some of which are reinvested).

Today’s wars are scientific productions [and in return] the world’s military forces initiate, fund and steer a large part of humanity’s scientific research. The Discovery of Ignorance p290

Was Cook’s ship a scientific expedition protected by a military force or a military expedition with a few scientists? (1768) The Marriage of Science and Empire p311

Romantic literature presents the individual as somebody caught in a struggle against the state and the market. Nothing could be further from the truth [they] are the mother and father of the individual. The Collapse of the Family and the Community p402