

## **Social Foundations of Education II**

### Questions for Thursday

Q. 1 How did geography, transportation and communication impact the spread and quality of education in colonial America?

Q. 2 Jefferson and his allies were classical Liberals with a commitment to the rights of the individual. How did these views impact their thinking on religion, education and the governance of the new republic?

Q. 3 Liberals placed their faith in human reason and the operation of the Natural Law. Explain.

Q. 4 Briefly summarize the Classic Liberal view of virtue and the work ethic.

Q. 5 The Classic Liberals believed implicitly in the inevitability of Progress; the perfectibility of man and the resultant determination of man's future. Explain.

Q. 6 Rousseau had proclaimed "Men are born free . . . ." Above all ideological beliefs for the liberals stood the fundamental belief in freedom. Freedom came in four fundamental forms. Be prepared to explain the importance of each of these freedoms.

Q. 7 Jefferson and his contemporary liberals took a new view of truth, a view that was far more tentative than those held prior to the Enlightenment. Briefly describe these views.

Q. 8 In a 1787 letter to James Madison Jefferson wrote, "above all things I hope the education of the common people will be attended to: convinced that on their good senses we may rely with the security for the preservation of a due degree of liberty". Why did Jefferson put such stress on education? Why was education central to his plans for the new republic?

Q. 9 Jefferson made a clear distinction between what he termed the 'natural' and the 'artificial' aristocracy. Explain the distinction and the implications for the form of government to be implemented in the new republic.

Q. 10 In line with his belief in the natural law Jefferson believed that education had a "sorting" function; ". . . the best geniuses will be raked annually from the rubbish" . Explain his views. Would you concur or disagree with these views?