Modern European History

Unit 6 - Age of Revolutions

The Perfect Society

People spent a great deal of time discussing ways to improve society and, in turn, their own lives during the Age of Enlightenment. These discussions often took place in form of a “salon,” a meeting/party/discussion held in the drawing rooms of the wealthy for the purpose of proposing a topic and allowing individuals to offer their opinions on the ideas presented.

Your task is to write a speech that you would present at a salon promoting your idea of what a so-called “perfect society” would look like. This should be written in speech format, as in, what would you say to your audience to persuade them to agree with your idea? Although you must address each of the categories below, you do not need to answer EVERY question in each category - use the questions as a guide for what you might say about that subject.

You should consider the following questions when developing your framework:

**Government:**

What kind of government should this society have? Should everyone have an equal voice or should only the best-educated and best-informed rule? If there are leaders, how should they be chosen?

**Economy:**

How should the people earn a living? How much should they be paid? How should the wealth be distributed? Is private property to be allowed?

**Agriculture:**

How should food be grown and how should it be distributed?

**Law:**

How should people who don’t follow the rules be punished? Who will decide the punishment?

**Living Arrangements:**

What kinds of shelters will be available? Will people live together as families or communally? Will there be houses or apartments, or both?

**Education:**

What kind of education system will be in place? Will it be mandatory, and if so, how many years will be required? Will everyone receive the same kind of education or will some received specialized training?

**Recreation:**

What kinds of recreational activities will be available? Will public recreation be provided or will people create their own amusement?

**Other:**

What other programs or institutions will be included in this perfect society?

Be sure to use correct spelling and grammar, proper sentence structure, and thoughtful word choice. You may hand write or type this speech.