3.1 Conservatism: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For levels-marked questions, write a well-structured, developed response using accurate political knowledge, named thinkers and precise terminology. This pack forms part of Edexcel Paper 1 (9PL0/01), Section B: Core Political Ideas.

1 This question tests core knowledge of conservative ideology.

(a) State two core values commonly associated with conservative ideology. **(2)**

(b) Explain the conservative view of human nature. **(3)**

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 This question is about the foundational thinker of conservative ideology.

(a) Identify the political thinker most closely associated with founding conservative ideas about gradual, organic change. **(1)**

(b) Explain one key idea from this thinker's work relevant to conservative ideology. **(3)**

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 This question is about one-nation conservatism.

(a) Identify the 19th-century Conservative Prime Minister most closely associated with one-nation conservatism. **(1)**

(b) Explain the concept of 'noblesse oblige' in one-nation conservative thought. **(3)**

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 This question is about property and hierarchy in conservative thought.

(a) Explain why property ownership is valued in conservative thought. **(3)**

(b) Explain the conservative concept of a 'natural hierarchy' in society. **(3)**

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.1 Conservatism: Test Pack

Question 1

(a) one accurate core value, e.g. tradition, pragmatism, hierarchy, authority, or the importance of property **B1**

(a) a second accurate core value, distinct from the first **B1**

(a) Answer: Any two of: tradition; pragmatism; hierarchy and authority; the importance of private property; organic society; human imperfection.

(b) identifies that conservatives generally view human nature as imperfect/flawed, rather than perfectible **B1**

(b) identifies that humans are viewed as limited in their rational capacity, so are said to need the security of tradition, established institutions and authority **B1**

(b) identifies that humans are also viewed as psychologically security-seeking, valuing the familiar and predictable over untested, abstract change **B1**

(b) Answer: Conservatives generally view human nature as imperfect and only limitedly rational, rather than perfectible; because people are fallible and crave security, conservatives argue that established traditions, institutions and authority provide the stability and guidance individuals need, and that people are naturally drawn to the familiar rather than to untested, abstract schemes of change.

Question 2

(a) Edmund Burke cao **B1**

(a) Answer: Edmund Burke.

(b) identifies a relevant idea, e.g. 'change to conserve', rejection of abstract natural rights, or the value of established institutions ('little platoons') **B1**

(b) accurate development, e.g. this idea was set out in his 1790 work 'Reflections on the Revolution in France', written in response to the French Revolution **B1**

(b) explains the significance, e.g. it argues society should evolve through cautious, incremental reform rather than sudden, radical upheaval **B1**

(b) Answer: One key idea is 'change to conserve': set out in Edmund Burke's 'Reflections on the Revolution in France' (1790), written in response to the French Revolution, this argues that cautious, incremental reform is necessary to preserve the essential fabric of a stable society, rather than sudden, radical upheaval which Burke associated with chaos and the loss of accumulated wisdom.

Question 3

(a) Benjamin Disraeli cao **B1**

(a) Answer: Benjamin Disraeli.

(b) identifies that 'noblesse oblige' means the privileged/wealthy have an obligation to look after the less fortunate **B1**

(b) links this to the idea of preserving an organic, hierarchical society rather than to a belief in equality **B1**

(b) explains the underlying motivation, e.g. it is framed as an act of paternalistic duty that helps maintain social order and stability, avoiding the social division Disraeli described as 'two nations' of rich and poor **B1**

(b) Answer: 'Noblesse oblige' is the idea that those with wealth, status and power have a paternalistic duty of care towards the less fortunate; one-nation conservatives present this not as a belief in equality, but as a pragmatic and moral obligation of the privileged to those below them in a naturally hierarchical society, intended to preserve social cohesion and avert the division into 'two nations' of rich and poor that Disraeli warned of in his 1845 novel 'Sybil, or The Two Nations'.

Question 4

(a) identifies that property gives individuals a stake in society and in maintaining social order **B1**

(a) identifies that property provides security and independence, reflecting a person's efforts and identity **B1**

(a) identifies that widespread property ownership is seen as encouraging responsibility and discouraging support for radical, disruptive political change **B1**

(a) Answer: Conservatives value property ownership because it gives individuals a tangible stake in the stability of society, providing security, independence and a sense of identity that reflects a person's own efforts; because property owners have something to lose from instability, widespread ownership is also seen as encouraging responsibility and discouraging support for radical, disruptive political change.

(b) identifies that conservatives generally view some degree of social hierarchy as natural and inevitable, given differences in talent, effort and circumstance **B1**

(b) identifies that this hierarchy is seen as organic, having developed gradually over time, rather than being artificially imposed **B1**

(b) identifies that hierarchy is linked to responsibility (those higher in the hierarchy having duties towards those below, e.g. noblesse oblige), rather than simply privilege without obligation **B1**

(b) Answer: Conservatives generally view a degree of social hierarchy as a natural feature of any society, reflecting real differences in talent, effort and circumstance, and as having developed organically over time rather than being artificially designed. This hierarchy is typically linked to reciprocal responsibility rather than pure privilege - those with greater wealth or status are seen as having duties (such as noblesse oblige) towards those with less.

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