3.10 Traditional Conservatism and the New Right: Tensions Within the Tradition: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answers may be brief but must use complete sentences where indicated. The final 30-mark essay must be a developed, structured evaluation with a clear judgement. This pack covers tensions between traditional conservatism and the New Right within the Edexcel 9PL0 Core Political Ideas content.

1 State two areas where New Right neo-conservatism emphasises a strong state rather than minimal state action.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain briefly why traditional conservatives are sceptical of abstract political ideologies, with a short example of a thinker referenced in Edexcel 9PL0.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain two ways in which One Nation conservatives justify paternalism and noblesse oblige in social policy.

(a) Explain one justification for paternalism from a One Nation conservative perspective. **(2)**

(b) Explain a second justification for noblesse oblige as used by One Nation conservatives. **(2)**

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.10 Traditional Conservatism and the New Right: Tensions Within the Tradition: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate area, e.g. law and order **B1**

a second accurate area, e.g. national defence or preserving traditional moral values **B1**

Answer: Any two of: a strong state on law and order (tough policing), a strong national defence, and active promotion of traditional moral or family values.

Question 2

identifies scepticism of abstract theory, e.g. the preference for empiricism and experience over grand theoretical designs **B1**

links this to a reason, e.g. concern that abstract schemes can destroy organic social arrangements **B1**

gives a brief illustration, e.g. referencing Burke's caution about the French Revolution's abstract rights approach **B1**

Answer: Traditional conservatives prefer empiricism and gradual reform because they view abstract political ideologies as likely to ignore historical wisdom and the complex, lived arrangements of society; Edmund Burke is commonly invoked as an example, warning that abstract schemes like those in the French Revolution can produce social disruption.

Question 3

(a) identifies one justification, e.g. to preserve social stability and prevent class division **B1**

(a) develops the point, e.g. arguing that limited welfare or reforms reduce grievance and maintain cohesion **B1**

(a) Answer: One justification is that paternalistic policies reduce social division and grievance, preserving social stability and cohesion by addressing extreme poverty or insecurity that might otherwise provoke social conflict.

(b) identifies a second justification, e.g. moral duty or stewardship by the privileged **B1**

(b) develops the point, e.g. linking elite responsibility to legitimacy of hierarchy and long-term stability **B1**

(b) Answer: A second justification is moral duty: noblesse oblige frames the privileged as having a responsibility to look after the less fortunate, which preserves the legitimacy of social hierarchy and helps prevent unrest by demonstrating reciprocal obligations.

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