# 3.2 Core Ideas and Principles of Liberalism: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions. Short-answer items may be brief phrases or sentences where asked. For levels-marked questions write a developed response with accurate political knowledge, clear analysis and, for the 30-mark essay, an explicit judgement.**

**1** Define the term 'liberalism' as a core political idea, naming the topic and context.

**(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)**

**2** State two limits that liberals commonly accept should be placed on individual liberty, naming the policy context.

**(a)** State one limit on liberty in liberal thought. **(1)**

**(b)** State a second limit on liberty in liberal thought, distinct from the first. **(1)**

**(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)**

**3** State two foundational principles shared by liberals, naming the context of core liberal ideas.

**(a)** State one foundational liberal principle. **(1)**

**(b)** State a second foundational liberal principle, distinct from the first. **(1)**

**(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)**


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**4** Explain the liberal idea that government must be legitimised by the consent of the governed, stating the constitutional context.

**(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)**

**5** Explain the liberal commitment to rationalism, namely belief in progress through reason and debate, and give one political implication, in the context of core liberal ideas.

**(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 3.2 Core Ideas and Principles of Liberalism: Test Pack

## Question 1

a concise definition identifying liberalism as a political tradition valuing individual liberty, consent and limited government **B1**

**Answer: A political tradition that places individual liberty, consent of the governed and limited, constitutional government at its centre.**

## Question 2

(a) one accurate limit, e.g. preventing harm to others, public order, or protection of rights **B1**

**(a) Answer: Preventing harm to others.**

(b) one accurate, distinct limit, e.g. protecting vulnerable people, national security, or preventing fraud **B1**

**(b) Answer: Protecting the rights and safety of vulnerable people.**

## Question 3

(a) one accurate principle, e.g. individualism, negative liberty, or government by consent **B1**

**(a) Answer: Individualism.**

(b) one accurate principle distinct from part a, e.g. rationalism, foundational equality, or constitutionalism **B1**

**(b) Answer: Negative liberty, freedom from external constraint.**

## Question 4

identifies that consent means government authority rests on the agreement or mandate of citizens, usually via elections or representative institutions **B1**

explains a mechanism, e.g. free elections, representative government or majority consent in parliament **B1**

explains constitutional implication, e.g. government power is limited and accountable through checks, separation of powers or rights protections **B1**

**Answer: Consent means government authority rests on the agreement or mandate of citizens, typically through free elections and representative institutions; this implies constitutional limits and accountability so that rulers cannot exercise unchecked power without approval from those governed.**

## Question 5

identifies rationalism as belief in the power of reason, education and debate to improve society **B1**

explains the link to progress, e.g. social and political reforms are achievable through argument and evidence rather than force **B1**

identifies a political implication, e.g. support for free press, public debate, universal education **B1**

development showing how that implication follows, e.g. informed citizens enable legitimate consent and better policy choices **B1**

brief qualification, e.g. recognition that reason alone may not resolve all conflicts and institutions are needed to mediate disputes **B1**

**Answer: Rationalism is belief in the capacity of reason, education and open debate to produce social and political improvement; it underpins support for free press, public deliberation and universal education so citizens can give informed consent and make better choices. It is qualified by the recognition that institutions and procedures are needed to manage disagreement where reason does not yield consensus.**


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