3.3 Classical and Modern Liberalism: Tensions Within the Tradition: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief, but present full sentences for any question worth 4 marks or more. The final 30-mark essay must be a developed, structured response. This pack focuses on the internal tensions within liberalism between classical and modern strands.

1 Define 'negative liberty' as it is used in classical liberal thought, naming the relevant topic of liberalism.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Identify the late 19th century thinker most associated with developing the modern liberal idea that the state should enable individual development, naming the thinker and the general period.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 Define 'positive liberty' as it is used in modern liberal thought, naming the topic of liberalism.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

4 State two features of the enabling welfare state associated with modern liberalism, in the context of liberal ideas on state intervention.

(a) Give one feature of an enabling welfare state. **(1)**

(b) Give a second feature of an enabling welfare state. **(1)**

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Explain, in the context of classical liberalism, the harm principle and how it informs limits on state power. Name the thinker commonly associated with the principle where appropriate.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

6 Explain why modern liberals argue that redistribution can increase individual freedom, in the context of positive liberty and the enabling state.

(Total for Question 6 is 3 marks)

7 Explain how classical liberals argue that state intervention can threaten individual autonomy, in the topic area of liberal disagreements over the state.

(Total for Question 7 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.3 Classical and Modern Liberalism: Tensions Within the Tradition: Test Pack

Question 1

one concise, correct definition, eg freedom from interference by others or the state **B1**

Answer: Negative liberty is freedom from interference by others or the state, allowing individuals to act without external constraints.

Question 2

names T H Green or another recognised modern liberal thinker from the late 19th century cao **B1**

Answer: T H Green, late 19th century.

Question 3

one concise, correct definition, eg the capacity or opportunity to act to fulfil one's potential **B1**

Answer: Positive liberty is the capacity or real opportunity to act so as to fulfil one's potential, often requiring enabling conditions provided by the state.

Question 4

(a) one accurate feature, e.g. state provision of education and health to expand individual opportunity **B1**

(a) Answer: State provision of public services such as education and healthcare to expand individuals' opportunities.

(b) one accurate feature, e.g. redistributive taxation or targeted welfare to correct structural barriers **B1**

(b) Answer: Redistributive taxation and targeted welfare aimed at correcting structural barriers to individual development.

Question 5

identifies the harm principle as the idea that the state may only prevent harm to others, not regulate individual self-regarding actions **B1**

links the principle to limits on state power, eg justifying minimal interference in personal choices **B1**

names John Stuart Mill or references On Liberty as the contextual thinker or text **B1**

Answer: The harm principle, associated with John Stuart Mill, holds that the state is justified in restricting liberty only to prevent harm to others, not to prevent self-regarding actions; this limits state power by supporting minimal interference in individuals' private choices.

Question 6

identifies that redistribution funds public services and welfare that expand opportunities **B1**

explains that this increases capacity to exercise choice, ie positive liberty **B1**

provides brief development or example, eg public education enabling social mobility **B1**

Answer: Modern liberals argue redistribution funds services and welfare that expand people's capacities to act, so redistributive policies increase positive liberty by creating real opportunities, for example public education and training can enable social mobility and meaningful choice.

Question 7

identifies that intervention may create dependence and reduce incentives for self-reliance **B1**

identifies that intrusive regulation can limit personal choices and lifestyles **B1**

identifies that expansion of state power risks bureaucratic overreach and erosion of civil liberties **B1**

explains the classical liberal consequence, eg paternalism undermines consent and responsibility **B1**

provides development or example, eg welfare dependency arguments or regulation of personal behaviours **B1**

links to broader classical liberal theory, eg preference for voluntary associations and market solutions **B1**

Answer: Classical liberals argue that state intervention can create dependence, reduce incentives for self-reliance, and restrict personal choices through intrusive regulation; expanding bureaucratic power risks erosion of civil liberties and paternalism undermines individual consent and responsibility. Examples include arguments that generous welfare can foster dependency, or that regulation of private behaviour limits negative liberty.

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