3.4 Liberal Thinkers: John Locke and Mary Wollstonecraft: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short-answer items may be brief but must be precise. For levels-marked questions, write developed paragraphs with accurate political knowledge and clear evaluation. Use the named thinkers John Locke and Mary Wollstonecraft where required.

1 State two central claims Mary Wollstonecraft makes in A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) about women and equality.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain Wollstonecraft's idea of rational individualism and how it extends a liberal principle to gender relations.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Explain Wollstonecraft's critique of women's exclusion from education and how she links this exclusion to wider political inequality.

(Total for Question 3 is 5 marks)

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Question 1

one accurate claim, e.g. women are rational beings entitled to the same natural rights as men	**B1**
second accurate claim, e.g. women should have equal access to education or property and citizenship rights	**B1**
third accurate claim, e.g. the social treatment of women produces perceived female inferiority	**B1**
fourth accurate claim, e.g. marriage and legal dependency restrict women's freedom	**B1**

Answer: Any two of: women are rational individuals entitled to the same natural rights as men; women should have equal access to education; women's legal and social exclusion from property and citizenship is unjust; marriage laws and social norms that produce female dependency should be reformed.

Question 2

identifies rational individualism as the claim that individuals are rational agents who should exercise reason	**B1**
explains extension to gender, e.g. women possess reason and so should have the same civic rights	**B1**
links to political consequences, e.g. equal education and property rights follow	**B1**

Answer: Rational individualism is the claim that individuals are rational agents who should exercise reason in moral and political life; Wollstonecraft extends this to gender by insisting women are equally rational and so should enjoy the same civic rights, education and legal standing as men.

Question 3

identifies that Wollstonecraft argued women were denied proper education	**B1**
explains consequence, e.g. lack of education produces dependency and cultivated 'weakness' or vanity	**B1**
links to political inequality, e.g. uneducated women cannot exercise reasoned citizenship or defend rights	**B1**
gives an example or development, e.g. reforming education would enable women to be moral and civic equals	**B1**
connects to liberal principle, e.g. education as a means to realise individuals' natural rights and autonomy	**B1**

Answer: Wollstonecraft argued women were systematically denied proper education, which produced dependency, cultivated weakness and prevented women from exercising reasoned judgement; this educational exclusion is linked to political inequality because uneducated women cannot function as autonomous citizens or defend their rights, so reforming education is essential to realise liberal claims about individual rights and autonomy.

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