3.4 Liberal Thinkers: John Locke and Mary Wollstonecraft: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 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 Define, as used by John Locke in Two Treatises of Government (1689), the term 'natural rights' in the context of political obligation.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Identify the publication year of John Locke's Two Treatises of Government and name one key political idea contained in it.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State two of Locke's classic natural rights most often quoted in A-level Politics teaching.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Explain Locke's idea of the state of nature as it appears in Two Treatises of Government (1689).

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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5 Explain the meaning of 'government by consent' in Locke's political thought and give one brief implication for constitutional government.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Explain Locke's argument for limited constitutional government in Two Treatises of Government and name one mechanism he favoured to limit rulers.

(Total for Question 6 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.4 Liberal Thinkers: John Locke and Mary Wollstonecraft: Test Pack

Question 1

a concise definition identifying natural rights as rights presumed to belong to individuals by virtue of their human nature, prior to government	**B1**

Answer: Rights belonging to individuals by virtue of being human, existing prior to and independent of government, such as life, liberty and property.

Question 2

1689 cao	**B1**
one accurate key idea, e.g. government by consent, natural rights to life liberty and property, or limited constitutional government	**B1**

Answer: 1689; for example, government by consent.

Question 3

one correct right, e.g. life	**B1**
another correct right, e.g. liberty or property (each counts as one mark)	**B1**

Answer: Any two of: life, liberty and property.

Question 4

states that the state of nature is a pre-political condition where individuals are free and equal	**B1**
identifies that natural law governs conduct and protects natural rights	**B1**
explains why people consent to government, e.g. to secure impartial protection of rights	**B1**

Answer: Locke's state of nature is a pre-political condition in which individuals are free and equal and governed by natural law; people possess natural rights which are vulnerable, so they consent to government to secure impartial protection of those rights.

Question 5

identifies that government by consent means political authority is legitimate only if individuals agree to it	**B1**
explains how consent may be expressed, e.g. social contract or majority rule	**B1**
states an implication, e.g. rulers are accountable to citizens or can be removed	**B1**
development of implication, e.g. supports limits on arbitrary power and the idea of constitutional constraints	**B1**

Answer: Government by consent is the idea that political authority is legitimate only when individuals agree, usually via a social contract or collective acceptance; an implication is that rulers are accountable and removable, supporting constitutional limits on arbitrary power and legal protections for individual rights.

Question 6

identifies that government should be limited to protecting natural rights	**B1**
explains the need to separate legislative and executive functions or constrain power	**B1**
identifies a mechanism, e.g. a written constitution, rule of law, or separation of powers principle	**B1**
develops how the mechanism limits rulers, e.g. rule of law binds rulers to established laws protecting rights	**B1**
links back to Locke's purpose, e.g. preventing arbitrary power and protecting property and liberty	**B1**

Answer: Locke argued government should be limited to securing natural rights and must not exercise arbitrary power; he favoured mechanisms such as separation of legislative and executive functions and the rule of law (or a constitution) to bind rulers, thereby preventing tyranny and protecting property and liberty.

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