3.6 Core Ideas and Principles of Socialism: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer items may be brief but must be clear. For levels-marked questions write developed responses in full sentences, using accurate political knowledge and precise terminology where appropriate. This pack covers Core Political Ideas: Socialism.

1 State five shared socialist principles that explain why cooperation is emphasised over competition.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 Explain two strengths and one limitation of using 'class' as the primary lens for analysing society, in the context of the core socialist idea that class is central.

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.6 Core Ideas and Principles of Socialism: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one principle, e.g. human nature is seen as cooperative and shaped by social conditions	**B1**
second principle, e.g. collective ownership and planning require cooperative institutions	**B1**
third principle, e.g. competition under capitalism is seen as causing inequality and social harm	**B1**
fourth principle, e.g. social solidarity is valued as necessary for social justice	**B1**
fifth principle, e.g. cooperation promotes shared welfare and reduces alienation	**B1**

Answer: Socialists emphasise cooperation because they view human nature as shaped by social conditions and therefore cooperative by disposition; collective ownership and planning depend on cooperative institutions; competition under capitalism creates inequality and harm; social solidarity is valued to achieve justice; and cooperation is seen as reducing alienation and promoting shared welfare.

Question 2

Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**
Level 1 Identifies a basic strength or limitation with limited explanation.	**1-3**
Level 2 Explains two strengths and one limitation with developed analysis and policy implications where appropriate.	**4-6**

Indicative content:

- Strength 1: Class focuses attention on economic power and structural inequalities, making visible how ownership of the means of production shapes life chances and political interests.
- Strength 2: Class analysis explains collective political mobilisation and patterns of voting, labour movements and trade union activity, providing a coherent framework for understanding social conflict.
- Limitation: Class analysis can underplay other identities and divisions such as gender, race, ethnicity and culture that also shape experience and political outcomes, so it may be insufficient alone to explain contemporary political dynamics.
- A developed answer links these points to policy: for example, class-based analysis supports redistribution and collective ownership, but recognition of its limitation points to intersectional approaches and targeted policies to address multiple forms of disadvantage.

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