3.6 Core Ideas and Principles of Socialism: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 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 Define 'collectivism' as used in the context of socialist political thought.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State one socialist criticism of capitalism relevant to workplace relations.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 Explain what socialists mean by 'class' when analysing society, in the context of core socialist ideas.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Give two features of an economy organised on the socialist ideal of common ownership, as described in core socialist principles.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 State three ways socialists argue capitalism produces alienation, in the context of its critique of capitalism.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

6 Explain briefly why socialists prefer equality of outcome to equality of opportunity, in the framework of core socialist principles.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.6 Core Ideas and Principles of Socialism: Test Pack

Question 1

a concise definition recognising priority of group/common good over individual self-interest, e.g. collectivism is the belief that society and collective institutions should shape individual life and priorities — **B1**

Answer: Collectivism is the belief that the group or community and collective institutions should take precedence over individual self-interest, and that social cooperation is essential to organise society.

Question 2

one accurate criticism, e.g. capitalism exploits workers by appropriating surplus value, or capitalism causes alienation of labour — **B1**

Answer: Capitalism exploits workers by appropriating surplus value produced by labour, leading to unfair distribution of wealth.

Question 3

identifies class as a social grouping defined by relations to the means of production or by economic position — **B1**

brief development, e.g. class shapes interests, consciousness and conflict within capitalist societies — **B1**

Answer: Class is a social grouping defined by a person or group's relation to the means of production or their economic position; class shapes interests and conflict, and is central to socialist analysis of society.

Question 4

one feature, e.g. key industries owned or controlled collectively rather than by private individuals — **B1**

second feature, e.g. production organised to meet social needs rather than private profit — **B1**

Answer: Key industries or major means of production are owned or controlled collectively, and production is organised primarily to meet social needs rather than to maximise private profit.

Question 5

one way, e.g. workers are alienated from the product of their labour — **B1**

second way, e.g. workers are alienated from the production process or from fellow workers — **B1**

third way, e.g. workers are alienated from their own human potential or species being — **B1**

Answer: Workers are alienated from the products they make, from the production process and from fellow workers, and this can extend to a loss of fulfilment and human potential under capitalist labour relations.

Question 6

identifies that equality of outcome aims to reduce material inequalities, not just legal or formal barriers — **B1**

explains one reason, e.g. structural disadvantages make formal opportunities unequal in practice — **B1**

explains a second reason, e.g. redistribution and collective provision are needed to address class-based disparities — **B1**

brief development linking this to socialism's critique of capitalism as producing entrenched inequality — **B1**

Answer: Equality of outcome focuses on reducing material inequalities rather than only formal access. Socialists argue that structural disadvantages mean formal opportunities do not translate into the same results for different classes, so redistribution and collective provision are required to correct class-based disparities produced by capitalism.

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