3.7 Revolutionary Socialism and Social Democracy: Tensions Within the Tradition: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief and use bullet points where appropriate. For levels-marked questions write a structured response with developed analysis and evaluation as required. The final 30-mark essay requires a clear judgement.

1 Define socialism in the context of the debate between revolutionary socialists and social democrats, naming one shared core goal. Context: core ideas within the socialist tradition.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State one way in which both revolutionary socialists and evolutionary socialists agree about the end goals of socialism. Context: shared commitments within the socialist tradition.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 State two criticisms revolutionary socialists make of social democracy. Context: critiques of reformism from a revolutionary perspective.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.7 Revolutionary Socialism and Social Democracy: Tensions Within the Tradition: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

a concise definition that socialism is a political ideology favouring collective provision or control of key resources and greater economic equality	**B1**
identifies one shared core goal, e.g. reducing economic inequality or improving workers welfare	**B1**

Answer: Socialism is an ideology advocating collective provision or control of major resources and institutions to reduce economic inequality; a shared core goal is to increase social and economic equality, for example by protecting workers and providing universal welfare.

Question 2

identifies a shared goal, e.g. reduction of class inequality or improvement of workers rights	**B1**
brief development showing how both strands articulate the goal	**B1**
briefly notes a caveat that methods differ even when the end is similar	**B1**

Answer: Both strands commonly agree on goals such as reducing class inequality and improving workers rights and material security; both aim for a fairer distribution of wealth and expanded social rights, even though they disagree sharply about how to achieve these ends.

Question 3

identifies one accurate criticism, e.g. reformism accepts capitalism and so preserves its exploitative relations	**B1**
brief development of that criticism	**B1**
identifies a second accurate criticism, e.g. social democracy leads to co-option of labour movement and pacification of class struggle	**B1**
brief development of that criticism	**B1**

Answer: One criticism is that social democracy accepts and thereby legitimises capitalism, so it preserves underlying exploitative relations rather than ending them. A second criticism is that reformism tends to co-opt the labour movement and pacify class struggle, preventing the development of the radical consciousness revolutionary socialists deem necessary for genuine transformation.

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