3.8 Socialist Thinkers: Karl Marx and Rosa Luxemburg: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For levels-marked questions, write full sentences and develop a clear line of argument using accurate political knowledge and named thinkers. Allow about 10 minutes for this pack.

1 Define Marx's concept of 'surplus value' as it appears in Capital and how it relates to exploitation.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State two major works by Karl Marx and give the commonly cited publication years for each work as used in A-level teaching.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Give two similarities and two differences between Marx's and Luxemburg's views on the role of the working class in bringing about socialism, with brief explanation for each point.

(a) Similarity 1, with brief explanation. **(1)**

(b) Similarity 2, with brief explanation. **(1)**

(c) Difference 1, with brief explanation. **(2)**

(d) Difference 2, with brief explanation. **(2)**

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.8 Socialist Thinkers: Karl Marx and Rosa Luxemburg: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

defines surplus value as the difference between the value produced by labour and the wages paid to labour **B1**

links this to exploitation: capitalists appropriate surplus value as profit **B1**

Answer: Surplus value is the difference between the value produced by labour and the wages paid to labour; capitalists appropriate this surplus value as profit, which is the basis of exploitation.

Question 2

names one work, e.g. The Communist Manifesto **B1**

gives the correct year for that work, e.g. 1848 for The Communist Manifesto **B1**

names a second work, e.g. Capital (Das Kapital) **B1**

gives the correct year for that work, e.g. 1867 for the first volume of Capital (allow 'Capital volume I 1867'; a note that later volumes were published posthumously is not required and earns no further mark) **B1**

Answer: The Communist Manifesto, 1848; Capital, volume I, 1867 (with later volumes published posthumously).

Question 3

(a) one accurate similarity with brief explanation, e.g. both see proletariat as the agent of change **B1**

(a) Answer: Both see the proletariat as the fundamental agent of revolutionary change, because workers are the class directly exploited under capitalism.

(b) one accurate similarity with brief explanation, e.g. both reject capitalist solutions as inadequate **B1**

(b) Answer: Both reject the idea that capitalism can be reformed to meet the needs of the working class, arguing that deeper structural change is required.

(c) one accurate difference, e.g. Marx allowed for organisation and theory to play a role in developing class consciousness **B1**

(c) brief development, e.g. Marx emphasised scientific analysis and party organisation in some interpretations, whereas Luxemburg emphasised spontaneity **B1**

(c) Answer: Marx emphasised the development of class consciousness through economic and political struggle, and in many readings accepted organised parties as instruments of working-class action; Luxemburg emphasised spontaneity and mass strikes, warning against over-centralised party control.

(d) one accurate difference, e.g. Luxemburg explicitly criticised vanguardist tactics and centralised control **B1**

(d) brief development, e.g. Marx's texts have been read to allow for disciplined organisation to guide revolutions, which Luxemburg feared could ossify **B1**

(d) Answer: Luxemburg explicitly criticised vanguardism and centralised control as threats to mass democracy; Marx's work has been interpreted to permit disciplined organisation to direct revolutionary strategy, a possibility Luxemburg rejected or warned against.

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