3.9 Socialist Thinkers: Beatrice Webb and Anthony Crosland: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short-answer items and the 10-mark question may be concise, but the final 30-mark essay should be a well-structured, full-sentence response using named thinkers and precise terminology.

1 State two methods the Fabian Society used to spread its ideas in late Victorian and Edwardian Britain.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 In 1909 Beatrice Webb signed the Minority Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law. Explain one way in which its approach reflected Fabian ideas about the role of the state.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain one difference between the Fabian view of how socialism should be achieved and the view of revolutionary Marxists.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Explain what the Webbs meant by a 'national minimum'.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.9 Socialist Thinkers: Beatrice Webb and Anthony Crosland: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate method, e.g. researching social problems and publishing the findings in pamphlets and tracts (such as Fabian Essays, 1889) **B1**

a second accurate method, e.g. lecturing and holding discussions, or 'permeation': persuading MPs, civil servants and local councillors of other parties to adopt Fabian policies **B1**

Answer: Any two of: research and publication (tracts and Fabian Essays); lectures and discussion meetings; permeation of existing parties, councils and the civil service.

Question 2

identifies a recommendation of the Minority Report, e.g. breaking up the Poor Law and replacing it with specialised public services (such as health, education and pensions) run by local authorities **B1**

explains that the aim was to prevent destitution through state provision rather than to deter people from applying for relief **B1**

links to Fabian ideas, e.g. expert administration, state responsibility for a national minimum standard, or reform through existing institutions rather than revolution **B1**

Answer: The Minority Report proposed replacing the Poor Law with specialised public services run by local authorities, aiming to prevent destitution rather than deter applicants; this reflected the Fabian belief that expert-run state institutions should guarantee a basic standard of living, achieved by reforming existing government.

Question 3

Fabian view: socialism should be achieved gradually, through democratic reform of the existing state and its institutions **B1**

Marxist view: capitalism can only be replaced by a revolution in which the working class overthrows the capitalist state **B1**

explains the reason for the difference, e.g. Fabians believe the state can be persuaded and used by experts and elected governments, whereas Marxists believe the state serves the ruling class and so cannot be reformed into a socialist one **B1**

Answer: Fabians such as Webb believed socialism would come gradually through democratic reform and expert administration of the existing state, whereas revolutionary Marxists believed the working class must overthrow a capitalist state that serves the ruling class and cannot be reformed.

Question 4

a basic standard of living or conditions below which no citizen should be allowed to fall, guaranteed by the state **B1**

gives an example area, e.g. wages, working hours, health and sanitation, education **B1**

Answer: A floor of basic conditions, such as decent wages, hours, health and education, that the state should guarantee to every citizen.

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