3.9 Socialist Thinkers: Beatrice Webb and Anthony Crosland: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 30 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 Crosland's redefinition of 'socialism' in The Future of Socialism, focused on equality.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain briefly the role of Keynesian demand management in Crosland's strategy for achieving more equal outcomes within a mixed economy.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Explain, with one historical detail, how Beatrice Webb advocated extending the democratic franchise as part of her socialist strategy.

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

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4 Evaluate the extent to which Beatrice Webb and Anthony Crosland agree on how socialism should be achieved. In your answer anchor arguments in the views of Webb and Crosland and reach a reasoned judgement.

(Total for Question 4 is 24 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.9 Socialist Thinkers: Beatrice Webb and Anthony Crosland: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies that Crosland defined socialism primarily as equality of outcome or reduced inequalities	**B1**
identifies that he argued this could be achieved within a mixed economy, not necessarily via common ownership	**B1**

Answer: Crosland redefined socialism as a commitment to reducing social and economic inequalities, an equality of outcome emphasis, arguing this could be pursued within a mixed economy rather than depending on common ownership of the means of production.

Question 2

identifies Keynesian demand management as state use of fiscal and monetary policy to stabilise demand and maintain full employment	**B1**
explains Crosland's view that full employment and economic growth are prerequisites for redistribution and improved living standards	**B1**
links this to redistribution via taxation and public spending to reduce inequality	**B1**

Answer: Keynesian demand management uses fiscal and monetary policy to sustain demand and full employment; Crosland argued that by maintaining growth and employment the state creates the resources and stable conditions needed for redistribution through taxation and public spending, thereby reducing inequalities within a mixed economy.

Question 3

identifies that Webb supported widening the franchise and democratic participation to give working people influence over local and national policy	**B1**
identifies municipal democracy as a focus, with town councils and local government as sites for reform	**B1**
links franchise extension to ideas of education and gradual reform through institutions	**B1**
provides one historical detail, e.g. Webb's involvement in founding the London School of Economics (1895) and her work on local government commissions that promoted municipal reform	**B1**
explains how greater political inclusion would enable implementation of municipal socialism policies	**B1**
explains a limitation or qualification, e.g. slow pace of change and reliance on elites as administrators	**B1**

Answer: Beatrice Webb argued that extending democratic participation, especially at local and municipal level, would empower working people to secure public services and municipal ownership. She worked on local government commissions and helped found the London School of Economics in 1895 to improve expertise and democratic capacity. Webb saw education, institutional reform and broadened voting rights as means for gradual, managed socialist change, though she also expected expert administrators to play a central role and the pace to be gradual.

Question 4

Level 0 No relevant material.	**0**
Level 1 Basic, limited knowledge of Webb and/or Crosland with little or no developed analysis or evaluation. Assertions are general or unsupported, and there is no clear judgement.	**1-6**
Level 2 Some accurate knowledge of both thinkers with limited analysis. Evaluation is present but uneven, tending to description rather than direct comparison. A simple judgement may be offered with limited support.	**7-12**
Level 3 Clear, accurate knowledge used to compare Webb and Crosland. Analysis explores points of agreement and disagreement with reasoned evaluation and supporting examples. A plausible, qualified judgement is reached.	**13-18**
Level 4 Sophisticated, wide-ranging knowledge and analysis directly comparing Webb and Crosland across ends, means and institutions. Evaluation critically engages with strengths and weaknesses of each position, places them in historical context, and reaches a clear, well-substantiated and nuanced judgement about the extent of their agreement.	**19-24**

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Indicative content:

- Areas of agreement: both are reformist rather than revolutionary, preferring democratic and parliamentary methods to achieve socialist aims; both accept a role for the state in securing social welfare and reducing inequality.
- Webb specifics: Fabian gradualism, emphasis on municipal socialism, bureaucratic collectivism and expert-led planning; belief in expanding democratic institutions while relying on administrative expertise to implement change; sceptical of abrupt revolution.
- Crosland specifics: revisionist social democracy in The Future of Socialism (1956), redefining socialism as equality of outcome, advocating Keynesian demand management, mixed economy and redistribution rather than universal common ownership; practical focus on policies to reduce inequality.
- Key disagreements: Webb places greater emphasis on planning, municipal ownership and the role of permanent administration as the mechanism for change; Crosland accepts market enterprise and managerial capitalism, arguing state intervention, regulation and redistribution are sufficient to deliver social ends without nationalisation as a principle.
- Practical considerations: Webb's model emphasises institutional reform and building municipal capacity, which may be slower but offers stable administrative control; Crosland's model aims for quicker social improvements through macroeconomic policy and redistribution but depends on sustained political consensus and effective taxation and spending.
- Theoretical critique and evaluation: assess whether ownership determines power relations and whether Crosland underestimates class power if ownership remains private; assess whether Webb underestimates democratic accountability risks from bureaucratic power or overestimates the neutrality of experts.
- Historical context: Webb writing in late 19th and early 20th centuries focused on municipalism and administrative reform; Crosland writing mid 20th century responded to post-war mixed economy realities and welfare state achievements, affecting their policy prescriptions.
- Conclusion pointers: a balanced judgement might argue they agree on reformist method and state responsibility for welfare, but disagree substantially on the necessary economic instruments, so they converge on ends and democratic means but diverge on the centrality of planning and ownership as tools.

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