4.1 Core Ideas and Principles of Feminism: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer responses may be brief phrases or sentences. For levels-marked questions (10 and 30 marks) write extended, structured responses using accurate political knowledge and clear evaluation where required. The pack covers Non-core Ideas: Feminism (foundational principles).

1 Define the term 'patriarchy' as it is used in feminist political theory.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State the sex/gender distinction used by feminists when analysing oppression.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 State one way policy makers might address inequality of outcome between women and men.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

4 Identify one institutional example feminists cite as evidence of patriarchy outside the family.

(Total for Question 4 is 1 mark)

5 Give two brief examples of how feminists use the slogan 'the personal is political' to connect private life and public policy.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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6 Explain briefly why feminists argue that the gender pay gap demonstrates systemic inequality. Refer to the UK context as of the 2024 general election.

(Total for Question 6 is 3 marks)

7 Explain two ways the slogan 'the personal is political' broadens the feminist concept of politics. Give one development point for each way.

(Total for Question 7 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.1 Core Ideas and Principles of Feminism: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

A concise definition identifying patriarchy as a system or structure in which men hold primary power and women are subordinated, oe — **B1**

Answer: A social and political system in which men hold primary power and women are systematically subordinated across institutions and cultural practices.

Question 2

Sex is biological differences; gender is socially constructed roles and expectations associated with sex cao — **B1**

Answer: Sex refers to biological characteristics; gender refers to socially constructed roles, behaviours and expectations associated with being male or female.

Question 3

names a valid policy, e.g. mandatory gender pay gap reporting with sanctions, or positive action in hiring and promotion — **B1**

Answer: Introduce mandatory gender pay gap reporting with enforcement and targets, or implement positive action measures in recruitment and promotion.

Question 4

identifies an institution, e.g. workplace pay structures, the criminal justice system, parliamentary representation, or healthcare provision — **B1**

Answer: Under-representation of women in Parliament and senior corporate positions is commonly cited as institutional evidence of patriarchy.

Question 5

one accurate example, e.g. domestic violence framed as a social and political problem requiring legal intervention — **B1**

a second accurate example, e.g. unpaid care and domestic labour seen as public policy issues for welfare and employment law — **B1**

Answer: Examples: treating domestic violence as a public policy and criminal justice issue; framing unpaid care and domestic labour as matters for welfare and employment policy rather than only private family arrangements.

Question 6

identifies that the gender pay gap shows aggregate differences in pay between men and women in the labour market — **B1**

links the gap to structural factors, e.g. occupational segregation, care responsibilities, and part-time work patterns — **B1**

briefly situates the point in context, e.g. cites that as of 2024 the UK median gender pay gap persisted and was a focus of policy debate — **B1**

Answer: Feminists argue the gender pay gap is systemic because aggregate pay differences reflect structural factors such as occupational segregation, disproportionate care responsibilities falling on women, and higher rates of part-time work among women; as of the 2024 general election the UK median pay gap remained a policy concern, indicating persistent structural barriers rather than only individual choices.

Question 7

explains one way and develops it, e.g. connects private experience to public policy making — **B1**

explains a second way and develops it, e.g. shows how naming private problems can create collective political mobilisation — **B1**

Answer: It broadens politics by treating private experiences, such as domestic abuse, as matters for public policy and law, requiring state response. It also empowers collective mobilisation by naming shared private problems and turning them into political campaigns for legal and social change.

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