4.1 Core Ideas and Principles of Feminism: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 30 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 State two different conceptions of equality debated within feminist thought.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Analyse two feminist ideas about the causes of womens oppression.

(Total for Question 2 is 10 marks)

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3 Explain two political implications of accepting that 'the personal is political' for feminist campaigning tactics. Develop both implications, including a further example, and briefly evaluate the tactics.

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

4 Explain the difference between formal legal equality and substantive equality for women, giving one example of each from public policy.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.1 Core Ideas and Principles of Feminism: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate conception, e.g. equality of opportunity	**B1**
a second accurate conception, e.g. equality of outcome (or substantive equality)	**B1**

Answer: Equality of opportunity and equality of outcome (substantive equality).

Question 2

Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**
Level 1 Basic identification of two causes with limited explanation and little or no analysis.	**1-3**
Level 2 Clear explanation of two causes with some analysis of how each causes womens oppression; may be descriptive rather than comparative.	**4-6**
Level 3 Detailed, accurate explanation and analysis of two causes, showing how each produces systemic oppression and offering some comparison or assessment of their relative importance.	**7-10**

Indicative content:

- A structural explanation: patriarchy as a system of social, economic and political arrangements that privilege men and institutionalise womens subordination through laws, workplace practices, cultural norms and political under-representation.
- How structural patriarchy produces oppression: gendered division of labour, occupational segregation, lower pay, under-representation in decision-making and policies that assume unpaid care are private responsibilities.
- A socialisation or cultural explanation: gender as socially constructed through norms, expectations, media portrayals and education that teach and reinforce gender roles from childhood.
- How socialisation produces oppression: internalised gender norms limit aspirations and choices, produce gendered behaviour that is policed by society, and legitimise unequal treatment as natural or deserved.
- Brief alternative causes to consider, in analysis: economic class intersecting with gender, legal and institutional discrimination, or state policies that fail to redistribute care responsibilities, showing the student can situate the two chosen ideas among wider causal claims.
- Comparative assessment: stronger answers assess which cause might be more fundamental or more amenable to policy change, for example arguing that cultural change is necessary to make institutional reforms effective, or that institutional change can alter incentives that shape cultural practice.

Question 3

one implication stated, e.g. increased use of consciousness-raising groups to share experiences	**B1**
development of that implication, e.g. turning shared experience into public demands for legal change	**B1**
a second implication stated, e.g. focus on policy areas such as family law, welfare and workplace regulations	**B1**
development of that implication, e.g. shifting campaigning resources from purely electoral tactics to service provision and legal reform efforts	**B1**
further development or example, e.g. campaigns to criminalise marital rape or to secure statutory paid parental leave	**B1**
brief evaluative comment, e.g. such tactics can mobilise survivors but may also risk politicising intimate choices	**B1**

Answer: Implications include use of consciousness-raising and testimonial strategies to make private problems public and thereby press for legal reform; and focusing campaigning on policy fields such as family law, welfare support and workplace regulation, for example campaigning to criminalise marital rape or to secure statutory paid parental leave. These tactics can empower survivors and change law and services, though they may also raise complex debates about state intervention in intimate life.

Question 4

defines formal legal equality as equal treatment before the law	**B1**
gives an example of formal equality, e.g. equal voting rights or non-discrimination laws	**B1**
defines substantive equality as addressing structural barriers to produce similar outcomes	**B1**
gives an example of substantive equality policy, e.g. childcare subsidies, quota systems, or family leave reform to enable equal labour market participation	**B1**
briefly contrasts the two, e.g. formal equality may not change underlying social practices that produce unequal outcomes	**B1**

Answer: Formal legal equality means equal treatment under the law, for example non-discrimination statutes or equal voting rights. Substantive equality seeks to remove structural barriers so women achieve similar outcomes, for example state-subsidised childcare, quotas for corporate boards or enhanced parental leave to enable equal labour market participation. Formal equality does not necessarily change social structures that produce unequal outcomes, whereas substantive policies aim to do so.

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