4.2 Liberal and Radical Feminism: Tensions Within the Tradition: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be answered in bullet points or short sentences. For levels-marked questions, write a structured response with developed explanation and, where required, a judgement. The final 30-mark essay should show balanced evaluation, precise terminology and relevant examples.

1 State one central aim of liberal feminism in relation to gender equality within existing political and legal institutions.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State how socialist or Marxist feminists link patriarchy and capitalism in their analysis of gender inequality, and give one short example of the mechanism they identify.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain briefly why radical feminists emphasise personal and family life as a site of political struggle, naming one implication for feminist strategy.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

4 Explain two ways in which socialist feminism's linking of patriarchy to capitalism changes the diagnosis of women's oppression compared with liberal feminism. Give a short example for each way, explain how these differences lead to different policy priorities, and add one further concise example or implication for strategy that distinguishes socialist from liberal responses.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.2 Liberal and Radical Feminism: Tensions Within the Tradition: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate stated aim, for example securing equal legal and political rights and opportunities for women within existing institutions	**B1**

Answer: To secure equal legal and political rights and opportunities for women within existing political and legal institutions.

Question 2

identifies the general link that capitalism exploits women through unpaid or low-paid labour and reinforces gender divisions	**B1**
gives a brief example of the mechanism, for example unpaid domestic labour reproduces labour power for the market	**B1**

Answer: Socialist feminists argue that capitalism exploits women's unpaid domestic and caring labour and that patriarchal gender divisions are reproduced by capitalist economic relations; for example, unpaid childcare and housework reproduce labour power that benefits employers and reduces the cost of labour reproduction for capital.

Question 3

identifies that radical feminists view patriarchy as rooted in personal, domestic and sexual relations rather than only in public institutions	**B1**
explains why this matters, for example because everyday family practices reproduce gender hierarchies and male authority	**B1**
gives an implication for strategy, for example advocacy of consciousness-raising, separatism or transformation of intimate relations rather than only legal reform	**B1**

Answer: Radical feminists view patriarchy as embedded in personal, domestic and sexual relations, so everyday family practices reproduce gender hierarchies and male authority. This leads to strategies that target private life, such as consciousness-raising, women-only spaces and attempts to transform intimate relations, rather than relying solely on legal reform of public institutions.

Question 4

identifies one way, for example that socialist feminists see economic structures as foundational to gender inequality rather than only legal exclusion	**B1**
develops this with an example, for example unpaid domestic labour enabling capitalist profit by reproducing labour power	**B1**
identifies a second way, for example that socialist feminism emphasises class and economic exploitation interacting with gendered labour markets	**B1**
develops this with an example, for example concentration of women in low-paid caring and service jobs as beneficial to capital	**B1**
provides further development linking diagnosis to different policy priorities, for example redistribution, socialisation of care or workplace reform	**B1**
additional concise example or implication for strategy distinguishing socialist from liberal responses	**B1**

Answer: One way is that socialist feminists treat economic structures as foundational, arguing that unpaid domestic labour reproduces labour power for employers, so addressing domestic labour and social care is necessary rather than only legal equality. A second way is the emphasis on how class and capitalist labour markets shape gendered outcomes, for example how women are overrepresented in low-paid caring and service sectors which capital relies on; this diagnosis leads to policy priorities like redistribution, workplace reform and socialising care, beyond the liberal focus on anti-discrimination and equal opportunity.

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