4.2 Liberal and Radical Feminism: Tensions Within the Tradition: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 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 Define the term 'patriarchy' as it is used in discussions of feminist theory and politics, naming the social domains it commonly covers.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Give two tactics or practices commonly associated with radical feminist organising in the 1960s and 1970s, naming their intended political effect.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Identify two UK legal reforms that reflect liberal feminist aims to improve women's political or economic opportunities, and give one brief consequence of one reform, dated where appropriate.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 Explain briefly one similarity shared by liberal, radical and socialist feminists in their overall aims, and give one limitation of that shared point.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

5 Explain two criticisms that radical feminists make of liberal feminism's approach of legal and political reform within the existing system.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.2 Liberal and Radical Feminism: Tensions Within the Tradition: Test Pack

Question 1

a concise definition identifying patriarchy as a social system in which men hold primary power in family, social and public institutions	**B1**

Answer: Patriarchy is a social system in which men hold primary power and dominate political leadership, economic advantage, cultural authority and decision-making within family and public life.

Question 2

one accurate tactic with intended effect, for example consciousness-raising groups to show personal experience is political	**B1**
a second accurate tactic with intended effect, for example women-only separatist spaces or direct action to highlight male violence and patriarchy	**B1**

Answer: Consciousness-raising groups, intended to show that personal experiences of oppression reflect wider political structures; creation of women-only separatist spaces or direct action protests, intended to resist male-dominated institutions and draw attention to male violence and structural patriarchy.

Question 3

identifies one accurate UK reform, for example the Equal Pay Act 1970	**B1**
identifies a second accurate UK reform, for example the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 or later statutory parental leave provisions	**B1**
gives a brief consequence with date, for example the Equal Pay Act 1970 provided a legal basis to challenge wage discrimination though gender pay gaps persisted	**B1**

Answer: Examples: the Equal Pay Act 1970; the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (or later statutory parental leave provisions introduced in the 1990s and 2000s). The Equal Pay Act 1970 provided a legal basis to challenge wage discrimination, though gender pay gaps persisted and required further legislation and case law to address.

Question 4

identifies one similarity, for example a shared commitment to reducing gender-based oppression and improving women's life chances	**B1**
explains why this is a similarity across the strands	**B1**
identifies one limitation or qualification, for example disagreement over whether legal reform, cultural change or economic transformation is the correct priority	**B1**
develops the limitation, for example how priorities affect policy preferences and alliance-building	**B1**
provides a brief example or brief concluding comment tying similarity to its limits	**B1**

Answer: Similarity: all three strands share a commitment to reducing gender-based oppression and improving women's life chances, whether by law, cultural change or economic transformation. Limitation: they disagree on the primary causes and therefore on priorities, for example liberals prioritise legal reform and individual opportunity, radicals prioritise transforming private relations and culture, and socialist feminists prioritise changing capitalist economic relations, which leads to different policy preferences and potential tensions in coalition politics.

Question 5

identifies one criticism, for example that legal equality does not change private relations or deep cultural attitudes	**B1**
develops that criticism, for example examples of persistent domestic inequality despite legal rights	**B1**
identifies a second criticism, for example that liberal feminism relies on institutions that are themselves patriarchal and can co-opt feminist aims	**B1**
develops that criticism, for example how incremental reform may blunt radical aims or preserve structural gendered power	**B1**

Answer: One criticism is that legal and political reforms do not transform private relations or deep cultural attitudes, so inequalities in the household and sexual relationships may persist despite formal equality. Another criticism is that liberal feminism depends on institutions that are themselves patriarchal and can co-opt feminist aims, so incremental reform can blunt more radical transformation and leave underlying structures of male power in place.

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