4.4 Feminist Thinkers: Kate Millett and Sylvia Walby: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences for extended responses (questions worth 4 marks or more).

1 Evaluate the extent to which Kate Millett and Sylvia Walby agree on how patriarchy operates.

(Total for Question 1 is 24 marks)

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2 Explain Sylvia Walby's account of male violence as one of the patriarchal structures, and outline briefly why she treats it as a structural, not only an individual, problem.

(Total for Question 2 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.4 Feminist Thinkers: Kate Millett and Sylvia Walby: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**
Level 1 Basic and generalised knowledge of Millett and Walby with minimal analytical or evaluative development. May include unsupported assertions about agreement or disagreement.	**1-6**
Level 2 Clear and accurate knowledge of both thinkers with some analysis of similarities and differences. Evaluation is present but tends to be partial or descriptive rather than sustained.	**7-12**
Level 3 Detailed knowledge and clear analysis comparing Millett and Walby. Evaluation weighs arguments and evidence and begins to reach a reasoned judgement, though treatment of counterarguments may be limited.	**13-18**
Level 4 Sophisticated, balanced and comprehensive evaluation that integrates detailed AO1 knowledge, critical AO2 analysis and sustained AO3 evaluation. The response recognises nuance, addresses limits and implications of each theory, uses well-chosen examples and reaches a clear, substantiated conclusion on the extent of agreement.	**19-24**

Indicative content:

- Points of agreement: both regard patriarchy as systemic rather than solely individual. Millett links private sexual relations to institutionalised power and Walby models patriarchy as embedded across multiple structures, so both reject purely individualist explanations.
- Agreement on the centrality of the family: Millett explicitly locates the family at the heart of sexual politics; Walby acknowledges the household as one of six structures and accepts that domestic relations are a key site for reproducing inequality.
- Agreement on the role of culture and ideology: Millett emphasises literature and cultural representation as legitimising male power; Walby includes culture as one of her structures and sees cultural norms as facilitating other structural inequalities.
- Points of difference: scope and method. Millett focuses on cultural and interpersonal mechanisms, using literary critique and psychoanalytic ideas; Walby uses sociological, empirical and institutional analysis across paid work, the state and other domains, giving more weight to measurable institutional processes.
- Difference over where patriarchy is rooted and best remedied: Millett suggests deep cultural and sexual transformation is central, implying broad cultural change; Walby suggests targeted institutional reforms in workplaces, law and policy are necessary because patriarchy operates through identifiable structures.
- Difference over emphasis on public versus private: Millett foregrounds private sexual relations and symbolic reproduction of male power; Walby's thesis of a shift to public patriarchy places more emphasis on state and labour market mechanisms producing inequality.
- Evaluation of strengths: Millett's cultural analysis powerfully explains symbolic legitimation and everyday experience of domination; Walby's structural model provides actionable areas for policy and research and can accommodate intersectional variables such as class and race within institutions.
- Evaluation of weaknesses: Millett may understate institutional and economic sources of patriarchy and risks overgeneralising from literary examples; Walby's model may underplay the depth of cultural and psychological processes that sustain gender allocation in families and intimate life.
- Synthesis and concluding judgement: a reasoned conclusion might argue the thinkers substantially agree that patriarchy is systemic and multifaceted, but they diverge on emphasis and remedy: Millett centres culture, sexuality and the family as primary sites of power, while Walby provides a multi-domain institutional account that better captures public and economic mechanisms. A strong answer weighs these perspectives and may conclude they are complementary, with Walby offering a macro-institutional frame that can incorporate Millett's micro-cultural insights.

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Question 2

identifies male violence as a distinct patriarchal structure in Walby's model	**B1**
explains that male violence operates through patterns such as domestic abuse, sexual violence and public aggression	**B1**
identifies why structural: laws, policing, cultural norms and workplace practices can normalise or fail to prevent male violence	**B1**
development showing consequences, e.g. restricting women's freedom, labour market participation and political voice	**B1**
further development or example, e.g. statistics or policy examples demonstrating systemic patterns rather than isolated incidents	**B1**

Answer: Walby treats male violence as a structural component of patriarchy: it includes domestic abuse, sexual violence and public aggression; it is structural because legal frameworks, policing practices, cultural norms and workplace rules can normalise or fail to prevent it, producing patterns that limit women's freedom, employment choices and political voice. This makes male violence part of a system rather than merely isolated individual acts.

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