4.4 Feminist Thinkers: Kate Millett and Sylvia Walby: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Define the term 'patriarchy' as used by Kate Millett in the context of feminist analysis of power.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State one methodological approach Kate Millett used in Sexual Politics and give a brief reason why this approach supports her claims about patriarchal ideology.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 State two of the six patriarchal structures that Sylvia Walby identified in her model of patriarchy, naming the context of Walby's analysis.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Compare briefly how Millett and Walby explain the origins or root causes of patriarchy, naming both thinkers and the context of their differing emphases; briefly evaluate how these different emphases lead to different policy implications.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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5 Explain Kate Millett's critique of the personal/political divide in Sexual Politics, with reference to how she links private relationships to public power.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.4 Feminist Thinkers: Kate Millett and Sylvia Walby: Test Pack

Question 1

a concise definition that patriarchy is a system of male domination or male power over women, exercised through social institutions such as the family and culture — **B1**

Answer: Patriarchy is a system of male domination or male power over women, exercised through institutions such as the family and cultural norms.

Question 2

identifies a valid methodological approach, e.g. close literary analysis of canonical texts, use of psychoanalytic concepts, or historical-literary critique — **B1**

explains how this approach supports claims, e.g. literary analysis reveals recurring patterns that normalise male dominance — **B1**

gives a brief example or development, e.g. reference to a male author or narrative technique Millett analysed — **B1**

Answer: Millett used close literary and cultural analysis, often employing psychoanalytic concepts; this reveals recurring narrative patterns and character roles that normalise male dominance, for example her readings of twentieth century novelists that show how authors present male authority as natural and female submission as eroticised.

Question 3

one correctly named structure, e.g. paid work, the state, male violence, culture, sexuality, or household work and relations — **B1**

a second correctly named structure distinct from the first — **B1**

Answer: Any two of Walby's six structures: paid work; the state; male violence; the household and domestic relations; sexuality; culture.

Question 4

identifies Millett's focus on cultural, literary and interpersonal origins, emphasising sexual politics within family and intimate relations — **B1**

identifies Walby's emphasis on structural, institutional origins across six domains including paid work and the state — **B1**

compares by noting Millett is more literary and psychoanalytic in method while Walby is sociological and institutional — **B1**

brief evaluation or consequence, e.g. how these different emphases lead to different policy implications — **B1**

Answer: Millett explains patriarchy through cultural and interpersonal origins, analysing literature and intimate relations to show how sexual politics is reproduced in the family; Walby explains patriarchy as institutional and structural, produced across six domains such as paid work and the state. Millett uses literary and psychoanalytic methods, while Walby uses sociological, institutional analysis, leading to different implications for remedying patriarchy: cultural transformation versus institutional reform.

Question 5

identifies Millett's claim that the personal is political, rejecting a simple private/public separation — **B1**

explains that Millett shows how intimate relations and family life reproduce and legitimate wider male power — **B1**

links to her method, e.g. using cultural and literary examples to show ideological reinforcement of male dominance — **B1**

explains the effect, e.g. personal problems such as domestic domination are connected to systemic political structures and so require political solutions — **B1**

Answer: Millett rejects the private/public split, arguing the personal is political: intimate relations and family dynamics reproduce and legitimise male power found in politics and culture; she uses literary and cultural analysis to show ideology reinforcing domination, and concludes that issues like domestic domination are not merely private troubles but political problems requiring collective, structural response.

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