4.5 Core Ideas and Principles of Anarchism: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more.

1 State two foundational principles shared by anarchists about human organisation, as taught in Edexcel Non-core Ideas: Anarchism.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State one immediate practical challenge anarchists acknowledge about replacing the state with voluntary institutions, in the context of Non-core Ideas: Anarchism.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 Explain, with two brief points, why anarchists argue that political authority is different from organisation and why they reject the former while accepting the latter.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Explain how anarchists justify the claim that removing the state would reduce violence and domination, using up to three linked points.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.5 Core Ideas and Principles of Anarchism: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

one accurate principle, such as belief that people can voluntarily cooperate without coercive authority	**B1**
a second accurate principle, such as the belief that order can arise spontaneously from below rather than being imposed from above	**B1**

Answer: Any two of: belief in voluntary cooperation without coercive authority; belief that social order can emerge spontaneously from below; rejection of political authority and the state as inherently oppressive; distinction between authority (rejected) and organisation (accepted).

Question 2

names a practical challenge, e.g. coordinating large scale infrastructure or defence without centralised authority	**B1**

Answer: Coordinating large scale infrastructure or defence without centralised authority is a common practical challenge anarchists acknowledge.

Question 3

identifies that authority implies hierarchical power to command and enforce, whereas organisation can be non-hierarchical and voluntary	**B1**
explains that anarchists reject authority because it risks coercion and domination	**B1**
identifies that organisation is accepted because it can coordinate activity through voluntary agreements and mutual aid	**B1**
explains that anarchists favour bottom-up, decentralised organisation to enable cooperation without coercion	**B1**

Answer: Authority, for anarchists, means a hierarchical power to command and enforce decisions; organisation means cooperative arrangements for coordination. Anarchists reject authority because it enables coercion and domination, but accept organisation when it is voluntary, decentralised and based on mutual agreement, because this allows coordination without oppressive command.

Question 4

identifies that the state concentrates coercive power which can be used to suppress and control populations	**B1**
identifies that state power can be used to legitimate violence by elites or foreign interventions	**B1**
explains that removing centralised coercion would disperse power and reduce opportunities for institutional abuse	**B1**
identifies that voluntary norms and horizontal accountability could provide non-coercive conflict resolution	**B1**
brief conclusion linking these points to the claim that overall violence and domination would be reduced	**B1**

Answer: Anarchists argue the state concentrates coercive power that can be used to suppress or control populations and to legitimate elite violence or foreign intervention; by dispersing power and relying on horizontal accountability and voluntary norms, opportunities for institutional abuse are reduced and non-coercive mechanisms for conflict resolution can develop, so overall violence and domination would fall.

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