4.5 Core Ideas and Principles of Anarchism: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Define anarchism as a political idea, naming its core claim about the state in this topic of Non-core Ideas: Anarchism.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State, in the context of anarchist ideas, what is meant by 'spontaneous order' and give one brief example of how it might occur without a state.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State and briefly explain one empirical limitation critics raise about anarchist proposals for voluntary coordination, and give one short anarchist counterargument to that limitation.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

4 Explain briefly why anarchists hold an optimistic view of human nature in the context of Non-core Ideas: Anarchism.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 Give three brief examples of voluntary cooperative institutions anarchists cite as alternatives to state provision, naming the institution and one function it performs.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 4.5 Core Ideas and Principles of Anarchism: Test Pack

Question 1

a concise definition that anarchism is a political position rejecting the legitimacy of the state and political authority **B1**

Answer: Anarchism is the political idea that rejects the legitimacy of the state and hierarchical political authority, arguing that authority is inherently oppressive and should be abolished or radically transformed.

Question 2

defines spontaneous order as social order that emerges from voluntary interactions without central control **B1**

gives one plausible example, e.g. community-run food distribution or worker cooperatives organising production **B1**

Answer: Spontaneous order is social order that emerges from voluntary interactions without central control. Example: a local network of neighbours organising mutual aid and food sharing in a crisis without state direction.

Question 3

identifies an empirical limitation, e.g. difficulty coordinating complex modern economies or defending against aggression **B1**

briefly explains why this is presented as a limitation **B1**

gives an anarchist counterargument, e.g. that federated voluntary networks and cooperative institutions can scale coordination and that centralised militaries also provoke violence **B1**

briefly explains how the counterargument addresses the limitation **B1**

Answer: Limitation: critics argue it is hard to coordinate complex modern economies and provide collective defence without a central state. This is presented as a practical barrier to delivering public goods reliably. Anarchist counterargument: federated voluntary networks, cooperatives and mutual defence pacts can scale coordination, and centralised militaries often provoke violence and entrench domination, so decentralised arrangements can be both more democratic and less violent.

Question 4

identifies that anarchists believe humans are capable of mutual aid and cooperation **B1**

identifies that anarchists argue coercive institutions corrupt behaviour, so without them people will cooperate more **B1**

brief development, e.g. social conditions shape behaviour so removing oppression allows natural cooperative instincts to flourish **B1**

Answer: Anarchists are optimistic about human nature because they see people as capable of mutual aid and voluntary cooperation; they argue that coercive institutions distort behaviour, and that removing oppression allows cooperative tendencies to flourish under more favourable social conditions.

Question 5

one accurate example and function, e.g. worker cooperatives organising production **B1**

a second accurate example and function, e.g. mutual aid groups providing welfare or disaster relief **B1**

accurate naming of a third example if offered, e.g. consensus-based neighbourhood assemblies managing local services **B1**

clear linking of each example to its function **B1**

Answer: Examples: worker cooperatives organising production and employment decisions; mutual aid groups providing welfare support or disaster relief; neighbourhood assemblies coordinating local services by consensus.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk