4.8 Anarchist Thinkers: Mikhail Bakunin and Emma Goldman: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For levels-marked questions write well-structured developed responses using accurate knowledge of Bakunin and Goldman.

1 Identify one decade in which Mikhail Bakunin was active in European revolutionary movements.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 State two features of Mikhail Bakunin's collectivist anarchism in the context of nineteenth century revolutionary thought.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain how Bakunin's preference for immediate insurrection contrasts with gradualist or parliamentary routes to change, using one implied consequence for post-revolutionary social organisation.

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

4 Explain Emma Goldman's critique of organised religion in the context of her anarcho-communist thought.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.8 Anarchist Thinkers: Mikhail Bakunin and Emma Goldman: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

any one of the 1840s, 1860s or 1870s (e.g. the 1848-49 revolutions; the First International, 1868-72), oe **B1**

Answer: The 1860s or 1870s (accept the 1840s): the First International and the split with Marx, or the 1848-49 revolutions.

Question 2

one correct feature, eg emphasis on collective ownership of means of production **B1**

a second correct feature, eg immediate abolition of state and capitalism via revolutionary action **B1**

Answer: Any two of: collective ownership of the means of production; immediate revolutionary destruction of the state and capitalism; organisation through federations of voluntary associations; distrust of hierarchical political parties and centralised authority.

Question 3

Level 1 Limited explanation that notes immediate insurrection is direct revolution without linking to consequences. **1-2**

Level 2 Clear explanation of contrast and one implied consequence, eg weaker institutional continuity or risk of disorder. **3-4**

Level 3 Detailed explanation showing how immediate insurrection alters the formation of post-revolutionary institutions, for example enabling direct worker self-management but risking instability if federations are not established. **5-6**

Indicative content:

- Immediate insurrection aims to dismantle state and capitalist institutions at once, enabling direct worker control and spontaneous federations, whereas gradualist or parliamentary routes rely on legal reforms, elections or transitional institutions.
- Consequence: immediate insurrection can empower local self-organisation and prevent entrenchment of a bureaucratic transitional state, but it may also produce short-term instability and challenges in coordinating complex economic systems without pre-existing federations.
- Analytical nuance: a balanced answer might argue that the success of immediate insurrection depends on the level of pre-revolutionary organisation and the ability to create federative structures rapidly, whereas gradualism offers continuity but risks institutional capture by elites.

Question 4

identifies that Goldman saw organised religion as reinforcing obedience and moral conformity **B1**

explains link to power, eg religion legitimises hierarchy including gender and class hierarchies **B1**

links to anarcho-communist aim, eg undermining religious authority was part of freeing individuals for voluntary cooperative life **B1**

Answer: Goldman criticised organised religion for promoting obedience, moral conformity and acceptance of authority, arguing it legitimised social and gender hierarchies; undermining religious authority was therefore integral to freeing individuals from imposed morals and enabling voluntary, cooperative social relations consistent with anarcho-communist ideals.

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