4.8 Anarchist Thinkers: Mikhail Bakunin and Emma Goldman: Test 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 Define the term 'anarchism' as used in the study of political ideas, referring to its general aim in the context of Bakunin and Goldman.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Identify one key focus area for Emma Goldman when applying anarchist principles to social life in the early 20th century.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 State two actions or positions by Bakunin that demonstrate his rejection of Marxist organisational methods within the socialist movement.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain Bakunin's argument that a transitional 'dictatorship of the proletariat' would return to tyranny, referring to his criticism of Marxist strategy.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 Explain two substantive differences between Bakunin's collectivist anarchism and Emma Goldman's anarcho-communism, in terms of property and organisation.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.8 Anarchist Thinkers: Mikhail Bakunin and Emma Goldman: Test Pack

Question 1

a concise definition, eg 'a political idea that rejects the legitimacy of the state and seeks society organised without hierarchical coercive authority' **B1**

Answer: Anarchism is a political idea rejecting the legitimacy of the state and other hierarchical coercive authorities, aiming for a society organised without imposed rulers and often based on voluntary cooperation and mutual aid.

Question 2

identifies a correct focus, eg gender equality, sexual freedom, or free love **B1**

Answer: Gender equality and personal freedom, including advocacy for women's autonomy over sexuality and reproductive choices.

Question 3

one correct action/position, eg opposing centralised political parties and the authority of the First International leadership **B1**

a second correct action/position, eg advocating spontaneous popular insurrection rather than disciplined party-led seizure of state power **B1**

Answer: Any two of: opposing the centralised direction of the International Workingmen's Association and its Marx-influenced leadership; arguing for immediate insurrection and direct action by workers rather than disciplined party takeover; warning that a party dictatorship would recreate hierarchy.

Question 4

identifies Bakunin's view that any state power, even temporarily held by revolutionaries, tends to become entrenched **B1**

explains the mechanism, eg centralised authority and party control can create a new ruling class **B1**

links to consequence, eg the revolution's aim of human liberation would be betrayed by new authoritarian elites **B1**

Answer: Bakunin argued that a transitional state such as the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' would entrench centralised power and create new elites, because those who hold coercive authority tend to preserve it; centralised party control and hierarchical structures would therefore reproduce domination rather than abolish it, betraying the revolution's aim of genuine freedom.

Question 5

identifies a difference about property, eg Bakunin supported collective ownership of workplaces while Goldman emphasised communal sharing of goods according to needs **B1**

develops the property point, eg collectivism may allow some form of remuneration linked to labour while anarcho-communism leans toward distribution by need **B1**

identifies a difference about organisation, eg Bakunin stressed federations of collectivised workplaces and local councils whereas Goldman emphasised voluntary communal living and more fluid communal arrangements **B1**

develops the organisation point, eg Goldman placed greater emphasis on individual autonomy within communal structures and on social and cultural liberation for women and minorities **B1**

provides a brief concluding synthesis, eg both aim to abolish the state but differ in emphasis on economic distribution and personal freedom within communal life **B1**

Answer: Differences include property and distribution: Bakunin's collectivism favours collective ownership of workplaces and may allow reward related to labour, while Goldman's anarcho-communism more strongly favours communal sharing according to need. Organisationally, Bakunin emphasised federations of collectivised workplaces and local councils to coordinate production and revolution, whereas Goldman emphasised voluntary communal living and a stronger focus on personal autonomy, social liberation and cultural change. Both reject the state, but they place different emphasis on economic distribution mechanisms and the role of personal freedom within communal arrangements.

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