8.4 Free Will and Determinism: Philosophical Positions: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7182 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer all questions. For short-answer items give concise sentences; the final 16-mark essay should be written in full sentences. Suggested time 10 minutes.

1 Define hard determinism and summarise its claim.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State one legal implication of accepting hard determinism and give a reason.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

3 Distinguish between hard and soft determinism with two differences.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.4 Free Will and Determinism: Philosophical Positions: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies the viewpoint as hard determinism cao	**B1**
states the claim that all behaviour is caused by prior events so free will is an illusion oe	**B1**

Answer: Hard determinism is the position that all behaviour is fully determined by prior causes and therefore true free will does not exist.

Question 2

states an implication such as reduced emphasis on punishment, more focus on treatment or rehabilitation, or a shift in blame allocation cao	**B1**
explains why, e.g. if behaviour is seen as caused, punishment as moral blame is less defensible oe	**M1**
links to legal practice, e.g. sentencing might prioritise public safety and rehabilitation over retribution oe	**A1**

Answer: One implication is reduced emphasis on retributive punishment and greater focus on treatment or rehabilitation, because if behaviour is seen as caused by prior factors, legal responses would shift towards managing risk and addressing causes rather than moral blame.

Question 3

difference 1: hard determinism denies genuine free will, soft determinism allows limited conscious choice oe	**M1**
difference 2: hard determinism implies reduced moral responsibility since actions are fully caused, soft determinism preserves a notion of responsibility by allowing deliberate choice within constraints oe	**M1**
both differences clearly linked to psychological explanation or consequences oe	**A1**

Answer: Hard determinism denies genuine free will and so challenges moral responsibility, whereas soft determinism accepts causal influences but allows limited conscious choice and so preserves a conditional notion of responsibility.

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