8.4 Free Will and Determinism: Philosophical Positions: Test Pack

AQA 7182 · about 15 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 15 minutes.

1 Outline the humanistic view of free will and its core claim.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Define soft determinism and give an associated psychologist.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Identify the continuum position for Rogers and Maslow and justify it.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 Identify the position illustrated and explain with two supporting points.

(Total for Question 4 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.4 Free Will and Determinism: Philosophical Positions: Test Pack

Question 1

identifies the viewpoint as free will or the humanistic perspective cao	**B1**
states the core claim that people can make conscious, self directed choices about their behaviour and growth oe	**B1**

Answer: Free will, as in the humanistic view, holds that individuals can make conscious, self directed choices about their behaviour and personal growth.

Question 2

identifies the viewpoint as soft determinism or compatibilism cao	**B1**
states that behaviour is constrained by causes but that some conscious control or choice can operate within those constraints oe	**B1**

Answer: Soft determinism, or compatibilism, holds that behaviour is influenced by prior causes but people still have some conscious control; William James is associated with a compatibilist stance.

Question 3

identifies the position as free will or emphasising free will cao	**B1**
justifies by referring to personal choice, self actualisation or conscious agency in therapy and development oe	**M1**
links the justification to Rogers and Maslow specifically, mentioning self actualisation or client centred focus oe	**A1**

Answer: Free will: Rogers and Maslow emphasise conscious personal choice and self actualisation, so they position psychology on the free will end of the continuum.

Question 4

identifies the position as soft determinism or compatibilism cao	**M1**
supporting point 1: notes that behaviour is influenced or constrained by events or social pressures oe	**M1**
explains point 1, e.g. these influences set limits on the range of options available to the client oe	**A1**
supporting point 2: notes that clients still make deliberate or conscious choices within those constraints oe	**M1**
explains point 2, e.g. deliberate choice preserves a form of agency and responsibility useful in therapy oe	**A1**
brief evaluation link, e.g. this position reconciles responsibility with causal explanation but may seem vague about the degree of freedom oe	**A1**

Answer: This illustrates soft determinism or compatibilism: it recognises that life events and social pressures constrain options, but clients still make deliberate choices within those limits. This reconciles a useful form of agency for therapy with acknowledgement of causal influences, though it may be unclear how much freedom remains in practice.

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