4.2 New Religious Movements, New Age Movements and Religiosity: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more. Allocate your time so you can attempt the final 12 mark question.

1 State one methodological difficulty researchers face when studying new religious movements and New Age groups in the UK.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Define Heelas' term 'subjective-life spirituality' as used when analysing New Age movements in Britain.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Identify and explain two ways Bruce's explanation of social change can account for growth in New Age spirituality.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.2 New Religious Movements, New Age Movements and Religiosity: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a difficulty, e.g. gaining access because NRMs may be secretive or distrustful of outsiders **B1**

brief development, e.g. this can limit sample size or bias results towards more open groups **B1**

Answer: One difficulty is gaining access because NRMs may be secretive or distrustful of outsiders, which can limit sample size or bias research towards more open groups.

Question 2

identifies the core idea, e.g. focus on individual experience and self development rather than external doctrines or organisational authority **B1**

development, e.g. spirituality is seen as a resource for personal life and wellbeing rather than collective worship **B1**

Answer: Subjective-life spirituality focuses on individual experience and self development rather than external doctrines or organisational authority, seeing spirituality as a resource for personal life and wellbeing rather than collective worship.

Question 3

identifies Bruce's social change explanation, e.g. rapid modernisation and loss of traditional community ties creating spiritual vacuum **B1**

explains how this leads to growth in New Age spirituality, e.g. people seek new sources of meaning and identity outside traditional churches **B1**

identifies a further developed point, e.g. growing individualism and consumer culture mean people pick spiritual goods to suit personal tastes **B1**

explains further, e.g. New Age offerings fit a consumerist spiritual market and spread through media and workplaces **B1**

Answer: Bruce argues social change such as modernisation and the loss of traditional community ties creates a spiritual vacuum, so people seek new sources of meaning like New Age spirituality. He also notes growing individualism and consumer culture lead people to pick spiritual goods to suit personal tastes, helping New Age practices spread through media and workplaces.

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