4.5 Feminist Perspectives on Religion and Patriarchy: Test Pack

Total Marks

AQA 7192 · about 20 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Where a question asks for a short answer write in full sentences for clarity. Use sociological terms and name studies where asked.

1 Which one of the following best describes the feminist claim that religious texts and practices can be patriarchal in many societies?

- ☐ A) Religious belief automatically makes women more equal
- ☐ B) Religious texts and rituals sometimes reflect and reinforce male authority
- ☐ C) All religions have female-only leadership structures
- ☐ D) Religion always promotes economic equality

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Identify one example of a menstruation or purity taboo in a religious tradition and explain one practical effect it can have on a woman's participation in religious life.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 State one piece of evidence that would support the claim that religion offers women social status and community, not just subordination.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain two ways sociologists might research the claim that religious leadership is male-dominated in a particular denomination.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Define what feminist sociologists mean by 'religious feminism' in the context of women's roles and status within faith communities.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

6 State one way Holm's analysis links religious rituals and gender inequality.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.5 Feminist Perspectives on Religion and Patriarchy: Test Pack

Question 1

B (religious texts and rituals sometimes reflect and reinforce male authority) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies a real example, e.g. restrictions on temple entry for menstruating women in some Hindu traditions, or similar rules in other faiths **B1**

explains a practical effect, e.g. temporary exclusion from rituals or community roles **B1**

further development, e.g. can reduce women's visible religious status or leadership opportunities over time **B1**

clear linkage between example and the practical effect **B1**

Answer: Example: some Hindu traditions restrict temple entry for menstruating women; the practical effect can be temporary exclusion from rituals and community roles, which over time reduces women's visible religious status and leadership opportunities.

Question 3

gives a plausible piece of evidence, e.g. statistics or studies showing high female participation in religious volunteering, leadership of women's groups or community organisations **B1**

brief development, e.g. linking such participation to social status or networks women gain **B1**

Answer: Evidence: studies showing high female participation in religious volunteering and leadership of women's groups, which can give women status, social networks and community resources.

Question 4

identifies one method, e.g. analysis of membership and leadership statistics or official records **B1**

develops how this would show representation levels and trends **B1**

identifies a second method, e.g. qualitative interviews with clergy and congregants **B1**

develops how interviews would give insight into barriers, experiences and meanings behind statistics **B1**

Answer: One method is analysing leadership statistics and records to show representation levels and trends. A second is qualitative interviews with clergy and congregants to explore barriers, experiences and the meanings behind the numbers.

Question 5

identifies religious feminism as movements or beliefs in which women use faith to challenge gender inequality (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. this can include seeking female leadership, reinterpreting texts or creating women-centred religious spaces **B1**

Answer: Religious feminism refers to movements or beliefs where women use faith to challenge gender inequality, for example by seeking female leadership, reinterpreting texts or creating women-centred religious spaces.

Question 6

identifies a Holm point, e.g. rituals often encode gendered roles that legitimise male authority **B1**

brief development, e.g. ritual positions and symbols can reproduce unequal status **B1**

Answer: Holm argues rituals often encode gendered roles that legitimise male authority, with ritual positions and symbols reproducing unequal status between men and women.

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