4.6 Religion, Science and Ideology as Competing Belief Systems: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write at least three full-sentence answers for the three extended questions (Q7, Q11, Q16). Use sociological terms where relevant. Spend about 10 minutes in total.

1 Explain Horton's distinction between open and closed belief systems and give one example of each in the context of religion, science or ideology.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 State one common criticism of Popper's falsification as a complete account of scientific practice.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Describe one way Marxist sociologists argue ideology supports the ruling class.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.6 Religion, Science and Ideology as Competing Belief Systems: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

explains open belief systems, e.g. open systems allow criticism and testing of beliefs	**B1**
gives an example of an open system, e.g. modern empirical science	**B1**
explains closed belief systems, e.g. closed systems defend core beliefs and reject contradictory evidence	**B1**
gives an example of a closed system, e.g. certain religious doctrines or totalising political ideologies	**B1**

Answer: Horton says open belief systems allow criticism and testing of beliefs, for example empirical science; closed systems defend core beliefs and reject contradictory evidence, for example many religious doctrines or totalising political ideologies.

Question 2

identifies a criticism, e.g. that scientists rarely discard theories immediately when an apparent falsifying result appears	**B1**
brief development, e.g. Kuhn and others argue science is social and complex so anomalies are often set aside or explained away until a paradigm shift	**B1**

Answer: A common criticism is that scientists rarely discard theories immediately after an apparent falsifying result; Kuhn and others argue science is socially complex so anomalies are often set aside or explained until a paradigm shift occurs.

Question 3

identifies a Marxist claim, e.g. ideology legitimises existing inequalities	**B1**
develops with example, e.g. media or education present capitalist values as natural	**B1**
further development, e.g. this creates false consciousness among working classes	**B1**

Answer: Marxists argue ideology legitimises existing inequalities by presenting ruling-class values as natural; for example media or education can promote capitalist values as common sense, creating false consciousness that prevents workers from recognising their exploitation.

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