4.7 Religion as a Force for Political and Social Change: Test Pack

AQA 7192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For short answer questions write in full sentences where asked. The final evaluation requires full paragraphs. Spend about 15 minutes on the whole paper.

1 Which one of the following is an example of religion being used to support political change in a community context, as discussed in this topic?

- ☐ A) A state church defending a traditional national curriculum
- ☐ B) A local imam organising a campaign to register voters among a marginalised group
- ☐ C) A ritual that celebrates a nation's historical monarchy
- ☐ D) Private family prayers that do not engage with politics

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 State one way religious movements use modern media to aid political mobilisation, giving a brief development.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Compare the functionalist view that religion is primarily conservative with evidence that religion can drive social change, giving two comparative points.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Identify and explain two ways religious organisations can help bring about political change, using general examples of mobilisation by faith groups.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Define the New Christian Right as a political movement in the United States and give one development to show why it matters for the study of religion and politics.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.7 Religion as a Force for Political and Social Change: Test Pack

Question 1

B (a local imam organising a campaign to register voters among a marginalised group) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies a way, e.g. using social media and religious broadcasting to spread messages and recruit supporters **B1**

brief development, e.g. online platforms increase reach quickly and allow mobilisation across regions and demographics **B1**

Answer: Religious movements use social media and religious broadcasting to spread messages and recruit supporters; online platforms increase reach quickly and allow mobilisation across regions and demographics.

Question 3

identifies functionalist claim, e.g. religion promotes social cohesion and shared values, supporting stability **B1**

contrasting point, e.g. religious movements like the civil rights movement used religious institutions and rhetoric to challenge inequality **B1**

second comparative point, e.g. functionalism sees religion as reinforcing consensus, whereas examples of the New Christian Right show religion can be politicised to change policy in conservative directions **B1**

development, e.g. this shows religion's political role can either preserve the status quo or seek to alter it depending on actors and context **B1**

Answer: Functionalists see religion as promoting social cohesion and stability, supporting existing values. In contrast, religious movements such as the civil rights movement used church institutions and rhetoric to challenge inequality. Similarly, the New Christian Right shows religion can be politicised to change policy in conservative directions, so religion can either preserve the status quo or seek to alter it depending on actors and context.

Question 4

identifies a way, e.g. providing leaders and organisational structure for campaigns **B1**

explains how this helps change, e.g. clergy and established congregations can co-ordinate demonstrations, fundraising and voter drives **B1**

identifies a second way, e.g. offering moral or ideological justification for political aims **B1**

explains how this helps change, e.g. religious teachings can legitimise demands for reform and persuade broader publics to support policy changes **B1**

Answer: Religious organisations can provide leaders and organisational structure for campaigns, since clergy and established congregations can co-ordinate demonstrations, fundraising and voter drives. They can also offer moral or ideological justification because religious teachings can legitimise demands for reform and persuade broader publics to support policy changes.

Question 5

identifies that the New Christian Right was an organised conservative religious movement mobilising on issues like abortion, sexuality and school curricula in the late 20th century US **B1**

development, e.g. it matters because it shows religion can be an active political force shaping public policy and elections **B1**

Answer: The New Christian Right was an organised conservative religious movement in the late 20th century US, mobilising on issues like abortion, sexuality and school curricula; it matters because it shows religion can be an active political force shaping public policy and elections.

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