8.2 Work and Welfare: Changing Work, Worklessness and Welfare Policy: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For questions marked AO2 or AO3 use short, linked sentences; for the final question write in full sentences. Allow about 10 minutes for the whole pack.

1 Using Item A and your knowledge, explain two sociological criticisms of relying mainly on retraining courses to solve local long-term unemployment.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Outline one ethical issue policymakers must consider when increasing benefit conditionality, such as stricter job search requirements.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Define what sociologists mean by 'reskilling' in the context of changes to work under globalisation and technological change.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.2 Work and Welfare: Changing Work, Worklessness and Welfare Policy: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies one criticism, e.g. retraining alone does not improve the security of available jobs **B1**

explains using Item A, e.g. courses could address the stated digital-skill and qualification gaps, but cannot by themselves turn mainly part-time service and gig vacancies with no guaranteed hours into secure employment **B1**

identifies a second criticism, e.g. practical barriers such as transport or childcare difficulties can prevent access to work even after retraining **B1**

explains with development, e.g. if workers cannot travel to jobs or arrange childcare, gaining relevant skills will not enable them to take those jobs without additional support **B1**

Answer: One criticism is that retraining alone does not improve job security. Item A reports gaps in digital skills and formal qualifications, so courses could help, but they cannot by themselves turn mainly part-time service and gig vacancies with no guaranteed hours into secure employment. A second criticism is that practical barriers can prevent access to work even after retraining. For example, if workers cannot travel to jobs or arrange childcare, gaining relevant skills will not enable them to take those jobs without additional support. These possible barriers come from sociological knowledge rather than being stated in Item A.

Question 2

identifies an ethical issue, e.g. risk of punishing vulnerable people who cannot meet conditions due to illness or caring responsibilities **B1**

development, e.g. sanctions could push people into poverty or harm wellbeing if safeguards are inadequate **B1**

Answer: An ethical issue is the risk of punishing vulnerable claimants who cannot meet conditions because of illness or caring duties; sanctions could push these people into poverty or harm their wellbeing if safeguards are insufficient.

Question 3

identifies reskilling as workers learning new skills to adapt to changes in technology or job requirements (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. retraining to use new software or to move from manual tasks to more technical tasks **B1**

Answer: Reskilling is workers learning new skills to adapt to changes in technology or job requirements, for example retraining to use new software or to move from manual tasks to more technical roles.

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