1.2 Sociological Perspectives: Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and Interactionism: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Where a question refers to Item B, use both the Item and your own knowledge of sociological perspectives in your answer.

1 Which sociologist is most closely associated with founding the functionalist perspective?

- ☐ A) Emile Durkheim
- ☐ B) Sigmund Freud
- ☐ C) Jean Piaget
- ☐ D) B.F. Skinner

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Sociologists sometimes describe the wider patterns that shape people's lives as 'social structure'. Define social structure.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 State one criticism that is often made of the functionalist perspective.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain two ways functionalists believe society works to maintain order and stability.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.2 Sociological Perspectives: Functionalism, Marxism, Feminism and Interactionism: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

A (Emile Durkheim) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

the organised pattern of social institutions and relationships (e.g. class, family, education) that shapes people's lives (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. functionalist and Marxist perspectives both focus mainly on the effect of social structure on individuals **B1**

Answer: The organised pattern of institutions and relationships (e.g. class, family, education) that shapes people's lives; functionalism and Marxism both focus mainly on this.

Question 3

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. functionalism understates conflict and inequality between social groups **B1**

brief development, e.g. it can assume institutions benefit everyone equally, when in reality some groups may benefit more than others **B1**

Answer: Functionalism can be criticised for understating conflict and inequality, assuming institutions benefit everyone equally when in reality some groups may benefit more than others.

Question 4

one way, e.g. institutions are compared to the organs of a body, each performing a function needed to keep the whole 'body' (society) healthy **B1**

development of that way, e.g. if one institution fails to perform its function properly, this can cause problems (dysfunction) elsewhere in society **B1**

a second way, e.g. society is held together by value consensus, a broad agreement on shared norms and values **B1**

development of that way, e.g. institutions such as education and the family pass on this shared value consensus to each new generation through socialisation **B1**

Answer: Functionalists compare society's institutions to the organs of a body, each performing a function that keeps the whole system healthy; they also argue society is held together by a value consensus, passed on to each generation through socialisation.

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