1.7 The Social Construction of Identity: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Where a question refers to Item H, use both the Item and your own knowledge of the social construction of identity in your answer.

1 When sociologists say identity is 'socially constructed', what do they mean?

- ☐ A) Identity is shaped and given meaning by society, not simply fixed by biology alone
- ☐ B) Identity is decided entirely by government law
- ☐ C) Identity never changes once a person is born
- ☐ D) Identity has nothing to do with other people

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 For each description below, state which named sociologist's concept it best matches.

(a) Giving different toys to children depending on their gender. **(1)**

(b) Feeling connected to millions of fellow citizens one will never personally meet. **(1)**

(c) Deeply learned tastes and habits from a person's class background that feel like a natural part of who they are. **(1)**

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain why sociologists say identity is socially constructed 'without saying it is not real'.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Explain why a person's sense of national identity might feel less important in some situations than in others.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.7 The Social Construction of Identity: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

A (shaped and given meaning by society) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

(a) oakley **B1**

(a) Answer: Ann Oakley (canalisation)

(b) anderson **B1**

(b) Answer: Benedict Anderson (imagined community)

(c) bourdieu **B1**

(c) Answer: Pierre Bourdieu (habitus)

Question 3

identifies that 'socially constructed' means shaped and given meaning by society, not that something is fake, unimportant or freely chosen **B1**

development, e.g. gender, ethnic, national and class identities have very real effects on people's lives, opportunities and how others treat them, even though they are produced through social processes **B1**

Answer: Socially constructed means shaped and given meaning by society, not fake or unimportant; gender, ethnic, national and class identities have very real effects on people's lives and how others treat them, even though they are produced through social processes.

Question 4

identifies that people can hold multiple identities at once, and which one feels most relevant can depend on the specific social situation **B1**

a correct example, e.g. national identity may feel more prominent during an international sporting event, but less prominent in an everyday local setting where a local or family identity feels more relevant **B1**

Answer: Because people can hold multiple identities at once, which one feels most relevant depends on the situation; national identity might feel prominent during an international sporting event but less prominent in an everyday local setting where a local or family identity feels more relevant.

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