6.1 Theories of Social Stratification: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show your understanding by using sociological vocabulary and, where asked, your own examples.

1 For each statement below, state whether it best reflects a functionalist, Marxist or Weberian view of stratification.

(a) Unequal rewards motivate the most talented people to fill the most important positions. **(1)**

(b) Class is based on ownership of the means of production, and workers are exploited for profit. **(1)**

(c) Stratification has three separate dimensions: class, status and party. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Give one reason Weber gave for believing that political power ('party') is not always determined by a person's economic class position.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain two reasons some sociologists find Weber's approach more useful than either functionalism or Marxism for understanding stratification in societies today.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.1 Theories of Social Stratification: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) functionalist **B1**

(a) Answer: Functionalist

(b) marxist **B1**

(b) Answer: Marxist

(c) weberian **B1**

(c) Answer: Weberian

Question 2

identifies a genuine reason, e.g. Weber argued people can gain political power through organisation and leadership within a party or pressure group, rather than only through wealth **B1**

development, e.g. this means someone from a less wealthy background could still hold significant political influence, which a purely economic model of class would not predict **B1**

Answer: Weber argued people can gain political power through organisation and leadership within a party or pressure group, rather than only through wealth, so someone less wealthy could still hold significant political influence.

Question 3

identifies one reason, e.g. Weber's model can explain divisions based on status or lifestyle, such as differences in prestige between occupations of similar income, that a purely economic model cannot **B1**

development **B1**

identifies a second, different reason, e.g. Weber's model can explain why some politically powerful people, such as senior civil servants or politicians, do not necessarily own large amounts of capital, which a strictly Marxist model struggles to explain **B1**

development **B1**

Answer: Weber's model can explain status/lifestyle divisions and prestige differences a purely economic model cannot, and can explain why some politically powerful people do not necessarily own large amounts of capital, unlike a strictly Marxist model.

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