6.1 Theories of Social Stratification: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Which pair of sociologists argued that social stratification exists in all societies because it helps ensure the most functionally important positions are filled by the most talented people?

- ☐ A) Davis and Moore
- ☐ B) Marx and Engels
- ☐ C) Weber and Tumin
- ☐ D) Durkheim and Parsons

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain what Marxists mean by 'false consciousness'.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State one strength of the Marxist perspective for understanding social stratification.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Define the term 'social stratification'.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Explain two ways Weber's view of stratification differs from Marx's view.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.1 Theories of Social Stratification: Test Pack

Question 1

A (Davis and Moore) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

identifies that false consciousness refers to workers failing to recognise their own exploitation or true class interests, e.g. seeing inequality as natural or fair rather than as a result of the capitalist system **B1**

development, e.g. Marxists argue this can be encouraged by institutions such as the media, religion or education, which can present the existing social order as normal **B1**

Answer: False consciousness refers to workers failing to recognise their own exploitation or true class interests, which Marxists argue can be encouraged by institutions such as the media, religion or education.

Question 3

identifies a genuine strength, e.g. it draws attention to structural economic inequality and exploitation that other perspectives, such as functionalism, can present too positively **B1**

brief development, e.g. it has been influential in explaining conflict and social change linked to unequal ownership of wealth and resources **B1**

Answer: The Marxist perspective draws attention to structural economic inequality and exploitation that other perspectives can present too positively, and has been influential in explaining conflict and social change.

Question 4

identifies that social stratification refers to the way society is structured into layers or strata based on unequal access to wealth, power or status (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. these layers form a hierarchy that tends to persist across generations rather than being random **B1**

Answer: Social stratification is the way society is structured into layers based on unequal access to wealth, power or status, forming a hierarchy that tends to persist across generations rather than being random.

Question 5

identifies that Marx saw stratification as based mainly on one dimension, economic class/ownership of the means of production, while Weber argued it has three separate dimensions: class, status and party **B1**

development, e.g. this means, for Weber, someone could have high status or political power without owning much economic capital, which Marx's model does not easily explain **B1**

identifies a second difference, e.g. Marx believed class conflict would inevitably lead to revolution and the overthrow of capitalism, while Weber did not see historical change as so predictable or inevitable **B1**

development, e.g. Weber thought status and party divisions could cut across class lines, potentially weakening the class-based unity Marx's theory relies on **B1**

Answer: Weber saw stratification as multidimensional (class, status, party), unlike Marx's mainly economic model, and Weber did not believe class conflict made revolution inevitable in the way Marx predicted.

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