6.10 Pluralist and Elite Theories of Power: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For short answer questions, write in full sentences for questions worth 2 marks or more. Spend about 10 minutes in total.

1 Explain two differences between pluralist and elite theories of power in how they view the distribution of power in Britain.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 State one piece of evidence someone who supports elite theory might use to argue elites control policy in Britain.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Explain one way that lobbying by professional lobbyists differs from grassroots campaigning by ordinary citizens, and give one implication for who gains influence in Britain.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.10 Pluralist and Elite Theories of Power: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a first difference, e.g. pluralists see power dispersed, elite theorists see it concentrated	**B1**
development of first difference	**B1**
identifies a second difference, e.g. pluralists emphasise competition and compromise, elites emphasise decision-making by a connected minority	**B1**
development of second difference	**B1**

Answer: Pluralists see power as dispersed among competing groups and claim policy reflects compromise, while elite theorists argue power is concentrated in a connected minority who make major decisions. Pluralists emphasise competition and influence by many groups, whereas elites emphasise shared interests and networks among powerful leaders.

Question 2

identifies evidence, e.g. examples of senior politicians, top military figures and business leaders sharing social ties and making common policy decisions	**B1**
brief development, e.g. this network of personal ties suggests coordinated influence beyond democratic accountability	**B1**

Answer: Examples of senior politicians, top military figures and business leaders sharing social ties and making common policy decisions; this suggests coordinated influence beyond ordinary democratic accountability.

Question 3

identifies a difference, e.g. lobbyists have expert knowledge and regular access to policymakers while grassroots campaigns rely on public mobilisation	**B1**
development, e.g. implication is that organised, well-funded actors can secure more direct influence than uncoordinated citizen action	**B1**

Answer: Lobbyists have expert knowledge and regular access to policymakers, whereas grassroots campaigns rely on public mobilisation; this implies organised, well funded actors can secure more direct influence than uncoordinated citizen action.

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