6.12 Marxist and Feminist Perspectives on Power and the State: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For longer answers write in full sentences. There is one levels-marked evaluation question at the end.

1 Which Marxist claim argues that the courts, police and laws exist mainly to protect private property and the wealth of the ruling class in a capitalist society such as Britain?

- ☐ A) the state as a neutral arbiter
- ☐ B) the capitalist state as an instrument of class rule
- ☐ C) the pluralist state model
- ☐ D) the Weberian bureaucratic state

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Identify and explain two limitations of using only Marxist theory to explain low female representation in Parliament and other senior state roles.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Identify and explain two Marxist reasons why courts and legal outcomes might favour the wealthy in a capitalist state such as Britain.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Explain one Marxist criticism of the idea that national governments are fully free to redistribute wealth away from the rich.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.12 Marxist and Feminist Perspectives on Power and the State: Test Pack

Question 1

B (the capitalist state as an instrument of class rule) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies limitation one, e.g. Marxism focuses on class and economic structures and may underplay gender specific causes **B1**

explains limitation one, e.g. it may miss cultural norms and sexism that uniquely affect women **B1**

identifies limitation two, e.g. Marxism may treat political institutions mainly as serving capitalist interests and neglect intersectional factors **B1**

explains limitation two, e.g. factors such as gendered childcare, discrimination and party culture need specific feminist analysis **B1**

Answer: One limitation is Marxism focuses on class and economic structures and may underplay gender specific causes like sexism and cultural norms. A second limitation is Marxism may treat institutions mainly as serving capitalist interests and neglect intersectional factors such as childcare responsibilities, discrimination and party culture which feminist analysis highlights.

Question 3

identifies reason one, e.g. wealthier defendants can afford better legal representation **B1**

explains reason one, e.g. better lawyers increase chances of acquittal or lighter sentences **B1**

identifies reason two, e.g. laws may be written or interpreted to protect corporate interests and property rights **B1**

explains reason two, e.g. this helps maintain capitalist accumulation and shields business practices from strict sanction **B1**

Answer: Wealthier defendants can afford better legal representation, increasing chances of acquittal or lighter sentences; and laws may be written or interpreted to protect corporate interests and property rights, helping maintain capitalist accumulation and shielding business practices from strict sanction.

Question 4

identifies a Marxist criticism, e.g. national governments face pressure from powerful capitalists and global markets **B1**

development, e.g. this pressure limits redistributive policies since capital can threaten disinvestment or move operations abroad **B1**

Answer: Marxists argue national governments face pressure from powerful capitalists and global markets which limits redistributive policies, because capital can threaten disinvestment or relocate operations abroad to avoid higher taxes or regulation.

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