6.4 Power and Authority: 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 Explain one strength and one weakness of Marxist explanations of power in society.

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 Explain the difference between power and authority.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 6.4 Power and Authority: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a genuine strength, e.g. Marxist theories draw attention to how economic ownership can shape political power, which pluralism can underplay	**B1**
development	**B1**
identifies a genuine weakness, e.g. critics argue Marxist theories can understate how much genuine competition and change does occur within democratic political systems	**B1**
development	**B1**

Answer: A strength of Marxist theories is drawing attention to how economic ownership shapes political power; a weakness is that they can understate how much genuine competition and change occurs within democratic systems.

Question 2

identifies power as the ability to make others do something, which may or may not be seen as legitimate, and can rest on force or the threat of force	**B1**
identifies authority as power that is widely accepted as legitimate by those subject to it	**B1**
development, e.g. a robber has power over a victim during a robbery, but not authority, since the victim does not see this power as rightful	**B1**
further development, e.g. by contrast, a police officer directing traffic has authority, since their power is generally accepted as legitimate	**B1**

Answer: Power is the ability to make others do something, which may rest on force; authority is power widely accepted as legitimate, e.g. a police officer directing traffic, unlike a robber, who has power but not authority.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk