6.7 Forms of Social Stratification: Caste, Feudal and Slave Systems: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write full sentences for any question worth 4 marks or more. Allocate about 15 minutes for this paper.

1 Which one of the following best describes social stratification as taught in GCSE sociology, in the context of whole societies?

- ☐ A) the random arrangement of people by age only
- ☐ B) the hierarchical ranking of individuals and groups within a society
- ☐ C) a single factor, such as income, that determines every social outcome
- ☐ D) the legal system governing property rights

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Describe two characteristics of an open class system in modern Britain that sociologists emphasise when comparing it with closed systems such as caste.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 State one limitation of comparing the caste system with a modern open class system when studying social stratification.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Define the feudal estate system as used in the study of historical stratification in medieval Europe, and name the key relationship on which it rested.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Identify and explain one way feudal obligations affected the economic life of peasants in medieval Europe.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.7 Forms of Social Stratification: Caste, Feudal and Slave Systems: Test Pack

Question 1

B (the hierarchical ranking of individuals and groups within a society) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies one characteristic, e.g. social mobility based on achieved status such as education or occupation **B1**

development of that characteristic **B1**

identifies a second characteristic, e.g. less rigid legal or religious rules fixing status at birth **B1**

development of that characteristic **B1**

Answer: One characteristic is social mobility based on achieved status such as education and occupation, which allows people to change their social position. A second is the absence of rigid legal or religious rules fixing status at birth, meaning status is less determined by family background than in a caste system.

Question 3

identifies a limitation, e.g. different historical and cultural contexts make direct comparison difficult **B1**

brief development, e.g. features such as religion and legal codes that enforce caste have no direct equivalent in modern Britain **B1**

Answer: A limitation is that different historical and cultural contexts make direct comparison difficult, for example religious rules enforcing caste have no direct equivalent in modern Britain.

Question 4

identifies feudal estate system as a land based, hierarchical system in medieval Europe where social rank was organised by estates or classes **B1**

development, e.g. notes it rested on reciprocal obligations between lords, vassals and peasants tied to land **B1**

Answer: The feudal estate system was a land based hierarchical system in medieval Europe organised by estates, resting on reciprocal obligations between lords, vassals and peasants tied to land.

Question 5

identifies one effect, e.g. peasants had to give labour, produce or rent to their lord **B1**

explains the effect, e.g. this limited peasants economic freedom and tied them to the land, making independent farming difficult **B1**

Answer: Peasants had to give labour, produce or rent to their lord; this limited their economic freedom and tied them to the land, making independent farming difficult.

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