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| **A-level Politics** | | | |
| **Paper 1: Core Political Ideas** | Sad face with solid fill with solid fill | Confused face with solid fill with solid fill | Smiling face with solid fill with solid fill |
| **1.1 Liberalism: core ideas and principles**  Core ideas and principles of liberalism and how they relate to  human nature, the state, society and the economy:   * **individualism** – the primacy of the individual in society over any group – to cover egoistical individualism and developmental individualism * **freedom/liberty** – the ability and right to make decisions in your own interests based on your view of human nature – to cover how liberals guarantee individual freedom, the link between freedom and individualism, that freedom is ‘under the law’ * **state** – it is ‘necessary’ to avoid disorder, but ‘evil’ as it has potential to remove individual liberty, thus should be limited; this is linked to the liberal view of the economy * **rationalism** – the belief that humans are rational creatures, capable of reason and logic – to cover how rationalism underpins an individual’s ability to define their own best interests and make their own moral choices, creating a progressive society * **equality/social justice** – the belief that individuals are of equal value and that they should be treated impartially and fairly by society – to cover foundational and formal equality and equality of opportunity * **liberal democracy** – a democracy that balances the will of the people, as shown through elections, with limited government (state) and a respect for civil liberties in society – to cover why liberals support it as well as why they are concerned about it. |  |  |  |
| **1.2** **Differing views and tensions within liberalism**  The differing views and tensions within liberalism:   * **classical liberalism** − early liberals who believed that individual freedom would best be achieved with the state playing a minimal role * **modern liberalism** − emerged as a reaction against free-market capitalism, believing this had led to many individuals not being free. Freedom could no longer simply be defined as ‘being left alone’. |  |  |  |
| 1.3 Liberal thinkers and their ideas  The key ideas of the following thinkers to exemplify the content from areas 1 and 2:  **John Locke (1632-1704)**   * Social contract theory – society, state and government are based on a theoretical voluntary agreement. * Limited government – that government should be limited and based on consent from below.   **Mary Wollstonecraft (1759–97)**   * Reason – women are rational and independent beings capable of reason. * Formal equality – in order to be free, women should enjoy full civil liberties and be allowed to have a career.   **John Stuart Mill (1806-73)**   * Harm principle – that individuals should be free to do anything except harm other individuals. * Tolerance – belief that the popularity of a view does not necessarily make it correct.   **John Rawls (1921-2002)**   * Theory of justice – opinion that society must be just and guarantee each citizen a life worth living. * The veil of ignorance – a hypothetical scenario where individuals, agree on the type of society they want from a position where they lack knowledge of their own position in society.   **Betty Friedan (1921-2006)**   * Legal equality – women are as capable as men and that oppressive laws and social views must be overturned. * Equal opportunity – women are being held back from their potential because of the limited number of jobs that are ‘acceptable’ for women. |  |  |  |
| **2.1 Conservatism: core ideas and principles**  Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate to  human nature, the state, society and the economy:   * **pragmatism** – flexible approach to society with decisions made on the basis of what works – to cover links between pragmatism and traditional conservative and one-nation philosophy * **tradition** – accumulated wisdom of past societies and a connection between the generations – to cover how this creates stability, links with organic change, and enhances humans’ security * **human imperfection** – humans are flawed which makes them incapable of making good decisions for themselves – to cover the three aspects of psychological, moral and intellectual imperfection * **organic society/state** – society/state is more important than any individual parts – to cover how this links to the underpinning of the beliefs of authority and hierarchy and a cohesive society * **paternalism** – benign power exerted from above by the state, that governs in the interests of the people – to cover the different interpretations by traditional (an authoritarian approach, the state knows what is best so the people must do what they are told) and one-nation conservatives (there is an obligation on the wealthy to look after those who are unable to look after themselves)and why it is rejected by New Right Conservatives * **libertarianism** (specifically neo-liberalism) – upholds liberty, seeking to maximise autonomy and free choice, mainly in the economy – to cover the moral and economic values associated with this idea. |  |  |  |
| **2.2 Differing views and tensions within conservatism**  The differing views and tensions within conservatism:   * **traditional conservative** − commitment to hierarchic and paternalistic values * **one-nation conservative** − updating of traditional conservatism in response to the emergence of capitalism * **new right** − the marriage of neo-liberal and neo-conservative ideas and include: * **neo-liberal**: principally concerned with free-market economics and atomistic individualism * **neo-conservative**: principally concerned with the fear of social fragmentation, tough on law and order and public morality. |  |  |  |
| **2.3 Conservative thinkers and their ideas**  The key ideas of the following thinkers to exemplify the content from areas 1 and 2:  **Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)**   * Order – an ordered society should balance the human need to lead a free life. * Human nature – humans are needy, vulnerable and easily led astray in attempts to understand the world around them.   **Edmund Burke (1729–1797)**   * Change – political change should be undertaken with great caution and organically. * Tradition and empiricism – practices passed down for generations should be respected.   **Michael Oakeshott (1901–1990)**   * Human imperfection – suggestion that society is unpredictable and humans are imperfect. * Pragmatism – belief that conservatism is about being pragmatic.   **Ayn Rand (1905–1982)**   * Objectivism – this advocates the virtues of rational self interest. * Freedom – this supports a pure, laissez-faire capitalist economy.   **Robert Nozick (1938–2002)**   * Libertarianism – based on Kant’s idea that individuals in society cannot be treated as a thing, or used against their will as a resource. * Self-ownership – individuals own their bodies, talents, abilities and labour. |  |  |  |
| **3.1 Socialism: core ideas and principles**  Core ideas and principles of socialism and how they relate to human nature, the state, society and the economy:   * **collectivism** – to cover how collective human effort is both of greater practical value to the economy and moral value to society than the effort of individuals * **common humanity** – to cover the nature of humans as social creatures with a tendency to co-operation, sociability and rationality, and how the individual cannot be understood without reference to society, as human behaviour is socially determined * **equality** – is a fundamental value of socialism – to cover the disagreements among socialists about the nature of equality and how it is critical to the state, society, the economy and human nature * **social class** – a group of people in society who have the same socioeconomic status – to cover the extent to which class impacts on socialists’ views of society, the state and the economy * **workers’ control** − to cover the importance and the extent of control over the economy and/or state and how it is to be achieved. |  |  |  |
| **3.2 Differing views and tensions within socialism**  The differing views and tensions within socialism:   * **revolutionary socialism** − socialism can be brought about only by the overthrow of the existing political and societal structures * **democratic socialism** - political democracy and some form of a socially owned economy * **social democracy** − an ideological view that wishes to humanise capitalism in the interests of social justice * **Third Way** − a middle-ground alternative route to socialism and free-market capitalism. |  |  |  |
| **3.3 Socialist thinkers and their ideas**  The key ideas of the following thinkers to exemplify the content from areas 1 and 2:  **Karl Marx (1818–83) and Friedrich Engels (1820–95)**   * The centrality of social class – the ideas of historical materialism, dialectic change and revolutionary class consciousness. * Humans as social beings – how nature is socially determined and how true common humanity can be expressed only under communism.   **Beatrice Webb (1858–1943)**   * ‘The inevitability of gradualness’ – the gradualist parliamentary strategy for achieving evolutionary socialism. * The expansion of the state – that this, and not the overthrow of the state, is critical in delivering socialism.   **Rosa Luxemburg (1871–1919)**   * Evolutionary socialism and revisionism – this is not possible as capitalism is based on an economic relationship of exploitation. * Struggle by the proletariat for reform and democracy – this creates the class consciousness necessary for the overthrow of the capitalist society and state.   **Anthony Crosland (1918–77)**   * The inherent contradictions in capitalism – does not drive social change and managed capitalism can deliver social justice and equality. * State-managed capitalism – includes the mixed economy, full employment and universal social benefits.   **Anthony Giddens (1938– )**   * The rejection of state intervention – acceptance of the free market in the economy, emphasis on equality of opportunity over equality, responsibility and community over class conflict. * The role of the state – is social investment in infrastructure and education not economic and social engineering. |  |  |  |