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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 tohuman 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.
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| **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’.
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| 1.3 Liberal thinkers and their ideasThe 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.
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| **2.1 Conservatism: core ideas and principles**Core ideas and principles of conservatism and how they relate tohuman 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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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| **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.
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