

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2007

GCE

GCE Government and Politics (6498) 01

Mark scheme

Q1. Anarchism is distinguished by a principled rejection of the state, in all its forms, as evil and oppressive. Anarchists emphasize that state authority is sovereign, compulsory, coercive and oppressive; the state is nothing less than legalised oppression operating in the interests of the powerful, propertied and privileged. The basis for this view of the state is the idea that political authority in any shape or form is absolutely corrupting. Although, in other respects, anarchists are highly optimistic about human nature, they warn that people become absolute tyrants when raised above others by power, privilege and wealth. This view amounts to a more extreme version of the liberal fear of power, in which those in power are bound to use it to benefit themselves at the expense of others. The difference is that this tendency is so pronounced that state power is untameable, constituting, as it does, a concentrated form of evil.

In answering this question, consider the following issues:

- Understanding of anarchist position on the state (AO1)
- Understanding of anarchist theory of the state (AO1)
- Analysis of the evil and oppressive nature of state power (AO2)

Q2. The fascist emphasis on struggle and war derives from a belief in social Darwinism. This suggests that individual and social behaviour is characterised by a struggle for survival in which the fit prevail and the weak go to the wall. This tendency towards struggle is a biological imperative and so is irresistible. Such ideas can be seen to affect people's social positions, in that the strong and able will rise to the top, a principle that Hitler is said to have applied to the structure of the Nazi state, within which leading figures were seemingly encouraged to compete with each other in order to ensure the appropriate distribution of power. When social Darwinism is applied to relations amongst states, it implies that tension, conflict and war are inevitable. Moreover, struggle and war are positively to be endorsed, since they are a way of making the social unit stronger, its weak elements having been eradicated or otherwise removed. Such thinking is often believed to have influenced the expansionist foreign policy pursued by the Nazis. Militarism and expansionism may also have been motivated by chauvinistic doctrine and by racialism (especially Aryanism) in particular.

In answering this question, consider the following issues:

- Understanding of social Darwinism (AO1)
- Awareness of links between fascism and social Darwinism (AO1 & 2)
- Analysis of the implications of social Darwinism ideas for fascism (AO2)

Q3. Nations are, in their most basic sense, cultural entities, groups of people who share the same language, religion, traditions and so on. The state, on the other hand, is a political entity; it is a political association that establishes sovereign jurisdiction within defined territorial borders. Nations and states are often confused for two reasons, both linked to nationalism itself. First, thanks to the success of nationalism, nations and states tend to overlap in the modern world in the form of the nation-state. Organisations like the United Nations reflect this confusion, being an organisation of states rather than nations. Secondly, national identity has traditionally been expressed in the desire to establish or maintain sovereign statehood. In this sense, nations are nations because they seek to become states, thereby blurring the distinction between nations and states. Nations may thus be thought of as politico-cultural entities.

In answering this question, consider the following issues:

- Understanding of the nation (AO1)
- Understanding of the state (AO1)
- Analysis and explanation of confusion between the nation and the state (AO2)

Q4. Feminism has traditionally been associated with, even defined by, a commitment to gender equality. However, some feminists have broken with egalitarian feminism, decrying the very idea of equality. They emphasise difference rather than equality, and are some times styled difference feminists (although they may also called separatist feminists, cultural feminists and so on). From the egalitarian perspective 'difference' refers to the subordination of women by patriarchy, in which case feminism seeks to liberate women from difference, Difference feminists, on the other hand, reject androgyny and subscribe to essentialism, the idea that there are fundamental and ineradicably differences between women and men. From this perspective, to want to be equal to a man implies that women are 'male identified', in that they define their goals in terms of what men are or what men have. They wish to be 'like men', and thus ape the competitive and aggressive behaviour that characterises male society. Their rejection of equality enables separatist feminists to be 'woman identified, what is sometimes seen as a 'pro-woman' position.

In answering this question, consider the following issues:

- Understanding of gender equality (AO1)
- Understanding of contrasting views on equality and difference within feminism (AO1)
- Analysis of difference feminist critique of gender equality (AO2)

Q5. Some have portrayed fascism as a blend of nationalism and socialism, a feature that is particularly evident in Nazism or national socialism. Nationalism and socialism are both core features in fascist ideology; some have argued that nationalism in particular is its defining feature. The nationalism which fascists embrace is a distinctively chauvinistic, militaristic and expansionist form of nationalism, variously portrayed as integral nationalism or palingenetic ultranationalism. In the case of Nazism, this nationalism had a pronounced racist character. The socialism that is associated with fascism reflects a general belief in collectivism rather than individualism, a form of lower-middle class anti-capitalism and an inclination towards a state-directed economy. It is, however, untypical of conventional forms of socialism, shunning, for instance, ideas such as cooperation and internationalism in favour of racial superiority and world conquest. Nationalism and socialism can be said to be fused within fascism insofar as a socialist stress upon collective identity and social unity is pursued through a project of national rebirth or aggrandisement. It can be argued either that nationalism is a more significant and fundamental feature of fascism than is socialism, or that other ideas or theories are equally important in defining fascism, including a belief in struggle and in leadership and elitism.

In answering this question, consider the following issues:

- Understanding of links between fascism and nationalism (AO1)
- Understanding of links between fascism and socialism (AO1)
- Analysis and evaluation and the of significance of nationalism and socialism within fascist ideology (AO2)

Q6. Liberal and radical feminism share a core commitment to promoting the social role of women through a recognition that the unequal treatment of women within society can and should be redressed. However, many would argue that the differences between them are more pronounced than the similarities. This is because radical feminism developed largely out of the belief that liberal feminism is an inadequate and ineffective form of feminism. The two traditions differ in a variety of ways. These include the following. Liberal feminism is based on a commitment to individualism, whereas radical feminists object to individualism on the grounds that it has either been constructed on the basis of a male model (encouraging women to be like men) or that it undermines sisterhood or gender solidarity. Liberal feminists seek equal access for women to the public sphere, reflected in campaigns for equal legal and political rights, whereas radical feminists argue that inequality in the public sphere is merely a reflection of deeper and more significant structures of gender oppression operating in the private or domestic sphere. Radical feminists thus condemn the conventional, liberal notion of politics and declare that 'the personal is the political'. Liberal feminists believe in reformism and attempt to bring about change through protest and campaigning, whereas radical feminists argue that the subordination of women is structural and can only be swept away by a sexual revolution.

In answering this question, consider the following issues:

- Understanding of liberal feminism and radical feminism (AO1)
- Analysis of similarities between liberal and radical feminism (AO2)
- Analysis and evaluation of the differences between liberal and radical feminism (AO2)

Q7. Nationalism has both a progressive and a reactionary face. A progressive doctrine is one that is committed to change, based on the belief that history is marked by progress or improvement. Nationalism is progressive to the extent that it is orientated around projects of political change, aimed at liberating nations from subordination or oppression. Such forms of nationalism thus look forward to the construction of a nation-state, and thus take root within nations that have yet to gain self-government. The most prominent forms of progressive nationalism are liberal nationalism and anticolonial nationalism. Reactionary doctrines are ones that look back to, and attempt to recreate, a lost past (strictly speaking reaction differs from tradition, in that the former attempts to 'turn the clock back'). Nationalism is reactionary in that it is often based on historical images and symbols, a nation's identity being defined by its common past. The most prominent forms of reactionary nationalism are conservative nationalism and expansionist nationalism. Conservatives are drawn to nationalism as a means of ensuring social stability and order often based on the notion of an idealised past. Expansionist nationalism has sometimes been explicitly reactionary; for instance, in the tendency of fascist nationalism to be orientated around the reestablishment of past national greatness. Arguably, though, fascist nationalism blends reactionary themes with progressive ones (linked, for example, to world domination).

In answering this question, consider the following issues:

- Understanding of the progressive and reactionary political doctrines (AO1)
- Analysis of the progressive features of nationalism (AO2)
- Analysis of the reactionary features of nationalism (AO2)
- Evaluation of the significance of contrasting positions within nationalism (AO2)

Unit 4 Marking Grid

Levels	Performance Criteria	1–4 20 marks	5–7 60 marks
3	Excellent	17-20	51-60
	Very good	15-16	45-50
	Good	13-14	39-44
2	Sound	11-12	33-38
	Basic	9-10	27-32
	Limited	7-8	21-26
1	Weak	5-6	15-20
	Poor	3-4	9-14
	Very poor	0-2	0-8

Unit 5

Levels	Performance Criteria	1–4 20 marks	5–7 60 marks
3	Excellent	17-20	51-60
	Very good	15-16	45-50
	Good	13-14	39-44
2	Sound	11-12	33-38
	Basic	9-10	27-32
	Limited	7-8	21-26
1	Weak	5-6	15-20
	Poor	3-4	9-14
	Very poor	0-2	0-8

Unit 6

Levels	Performance Criteria	Essay 50 marks
3	Excellent	43-50
	Very good	38-42
	Good	33-37
2	Sound	28-32
	Basic	23-27
	Limited	18-22
1	Weak	13-17
	Poor	8-12
	Very poor	0-7

