

Socialism: Activities

Comparing different streams of socialism (A01, A02)

The table below outlines a range of socialist perspectives. Carefully read through the information and then divide the perspectives into: i) those that Marxists would support; and ii) those that Social Democrats would support.

Then try to organise the points in a way that allows you to form an effective response to the following question: 'What are the main differences between Marxism and Social Democracy?'

It needs to be acknowledged that private trade has its place within society. Measures establishing common control should therefore be limited to some areas only.	The aim should be to eradicate private ownership of production methods, thereby changing the process of goods production and distribution from one based on individual profit to one for satisfying true social needs.
The only hope of ensuring social equality and justice is completely demolishing capitalism and establishing an alternative communist society in its place.	Over time, the goal must be a situation where class differences have been completely eradicated as a feature of society.
Capitalism is a regime that brings about a variety of problems, but social justice and equality can be ensured by introducing measures that reform and suppress it.	Only through revolution which totally transforms society is there hope of introducing socialism.
Socialism can be gradually introduced socialist parties gain power by winning democratic elections.	The long term hope is that the level of inequality between different social classes can be lessened.