

Socialism: Activities

Essay Questions (A01, A02, A03)

Construct full essays discussing the questions below.

1	' We are all essentially social creatures with the ability to effectively collaborate with others.' Critically evaluate this Socialist interpretation of human nature.
2	' Inequality is an inevitable part of a capitalist operation.' Discuss with reference to the ideas of at least two important socialist thinkers.
3	To what extent are the ideas of Karl Marx still relevant today?
4	To what extent is the ability to operate Social Democratic reforms completely dependent upon first ensuring economic growth?
5	' No other political ideology has influenced Welsh politics as much as socialism.' Discuss.
6	Critically evaluate the Marxist argument that the structure of the global capitalist regime is the main factor causing the dependency poverty of 'peripheral' countries.

In preparing to draw up your essays, think carefully about the following points:

- i) Before starting to write, ensure that you have understood what the question is asking you to discuss. The best essays are those with clear focus and that only discuss material relevant to the question.
- ii) Take your time to carefully plan your essay. Consider which different points you believe need discussing and think carefully about the order in which these points should be discussed. This will ensure that your essay has a clear structure and therefore avoids unfortunate features such as repetition.
- iii) It is important that your essay presents relevant information, but you should also attempt to ensure that your essay is more than merely a descriptive piece. Each of the above essay questions requires you to discuss and analyse (note the use of terms such as 'evaluate' or 'to what extent'). As a result, your essay needs to weigh up different perspectives and arguments, as well as present information about them.
- iv) It is also important that your essay develops a clear argument in response to the question. Note that all questions above require you in some way to develop a specific perspective. The best essays will gradually develop this argument or perspective during the work, not wait to announce it succinctly in the closing paragraph.