**Political Ideologies Revision Tasks**

**Task 1**

**Identify the political ideology with which the following theorists are most closely aligned. Next to each individual note whether they are:**

* Democratic socialist \*
* Traditional conservative
* Social democrat \*\*
* Revolutionary socialist
* Third Way/Revisionist socialist
* New Right
* Utopian socialist
* One nation conservative

\* Democratic socialism is defined as having a socialist economy in which the means of production are socially and collectively owned or controlled, alongside a democratic political system of government. Democratic socialists reject most self-described socialist states and Marxism–Leninism. They generally believe the government should help provide for people's most basic needs and help all people have an equal chance at achieving success.

\*\*Social democracy is an ideological view that wishes to humanise capitalism in the interests of social justice. Social democracy is the **strand of socialism** closest to the centre of the political spectrum. In terms of economic policy, social democrats believe strongly in the virtues of co-operation between the government, the unions and management. The level of wealth created within society should be reallocated via a combination of progressive taxation, an extensive welfare state programme and a significant role for both the public and private sector. With regards to education, social democrats endorse comprehensive schools because they educate children of all abilities and social backgrounds as opposed to the divisive and elitist system generated by selection. Most importantly, social democrats favour a gradual approach to social change. Unlike revolutionary socialists, they firmly reject the view that the means towards a better society is one that necessitates political violence.

Unlike other strands of socialist thought, social democrats stipulate that capitalism can and should be **humanised**.

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| --- | --- |
| **Theorist** | **Theory** |
| Rand |  |
| Rousseau | **Conservative/Liberal** |
| Locke |  |
| Marx |  |
| Rosa Luxemburg |  |
| Engels |  |
| Hobbes |  |
| Nozick |  |
| Burke |  |
| Disraeli |  |
| Crosland |  |
| Giddens |  |
| Webb |  |

**Task 2**

**Answer the following questions:**

1. Why do different socialists disagree about the nature of equality?
2. Explain the meaning of the most important values underpinning socialist ideology: equality, welfare and common ownership.
3. Explain the socialist concept of common humanity and cooperation and why these are central to socialist ideology.
4. Explain the socialist concept of equality and why this is central to socialist ideology.
5. Explain the socialist concept of common ownership and why this has shifted over time.
6. Outline the Marxist interpretation of the interplay between social class, the economy and power.
7. Give a definition of revolutionary socialism.
8. Give a definition of democratic socialism.
9. Give a definition of revisionist socialism/Third Way.
10. What are the five key characteristics of Third Way thinking?
11. Give a definition of utopian socialism.
12. Give a definition of social democracy.
13. What does social justice mean to a socialist?
14. Explain the key points of tension between revolutionary socialism and other forms of the ideology.
15. Outline the key ideas of Anthony Crosland.
16. Outline the key ideas of Anthony Giddens.

**Task 3**

**Answer the following questions:**

1. What would you say is the core value of conservatism?
2. What are the main differences between one nation conservatism and traditional conservatism?
3. Outline the core conservative value of tradition.
4. Outline the core conservative value of human nature.
5. Outline the core conservative value of organicism.
6. Outline the core conservative value of paternalism.
7. What are the main differences between Traditional conservatism and New Right Conservatism?
8. Explain the concept of noblesse oblige in the context of traditional conservatism.
9. Explain the main theories of Thomas Hobbes.
10. Explain the main theories of Edmund Burke.
11. Explain the main theories of Michael Oakeshott.
12. Explain the main theories of Ayn Rand.
13. Explain the main theories of Robert Nozick.

**Task 4**

Write an introduction to the following essay:

**“Political ideologies are more similar than different”.**

**Discuss in relation to two political ideologies that you have studied. (20**)

Remember to include:

* Context
* A brief outline of the two ideologies.
* Where the ideologies have similarities, nuances, differences and in which areas – identify the themes you will discuss in the essay.
* Overall statement clearly stating your line of argument where you identify whether you believe that ideologies are similar or different and where this can be seen and/or why this might be the case.

**Task 5**

Read the following essay (not written by a Dollar pupil). It is a response to the essay question identified in Task 4.

**Your task is to:**

* Identify all of the K (knowledge facts/descriptions) to reach a maximum of 4 marks.
* Identify all of the Keg (knowledge examples) to reach a maximum of 4 marks.
* Identify all of the analysis points to a reach a maximum of 6 marks
* Write a conclusion to include 4 separate and new analytical/evaluative comments that have not previously been credited by you.
* Rewrite the introduction.

While the political ideologies of conservatism and socialism have their similarities, there are also many differences. As not all Conservative and Socialist thinkers hold the same views in all aspects from human nature to society, differences and similarities can be found, with some thinkers even having both conservative and socialist beliefs.

By looking at Human nature, we can see both similarities and differences between conservatism and socialism. Traditional conservatives typically take a pessimistic view on human nature, believing that people are reckless and selfish if left to their own devices. An example of this is Burke who was horrified by the French revolution of 1789, leading him the believe firm government was needed. New Right conservative thinkers like Margret Thatcher, take a slightly different view, believing that if people are released from government controls and given freedoms, they will take the initiative for themselves. This encourages competition and individualism, taking a different view of those traditional conservatives. On the opposite side, however, are socialists who view human nature in a different more optimistic light. They believe that it is something that can be improved. Marx for example thought that human nature is influenced by the economic situation in which it is in, showing that it could be cured by a revolution and a move away from capitalism. This contrasts the conservative pessimistic belief. However, both traditional conservatives and socialists both play down the role of individualism, with only New Right conservatives view individualism in a desirable light, showing that there are some similarities between the two.

In terms of the economy, conservative economics typically revolves around capitalism. While many traditional conservative thinkers struggled to accept this due to the uncertainty capitalism can bring, New right thinkers favoured a free-market economy as they wanted to defeat socialism. Thatcher’s example of ‘Privatisation of state-owned industries’ was an example of this. Some traditional theorists, like Burke, did favour the Laissez-faire theory of Adam Smith. Burke believed that capitalism would help achieve and maintain the traditional hierarchal structure of society. This is completely different to socialists however, many of whom were not in favour of capitalism, like Beatrice Webb for example. She believed that capitalism was a corrupting force for humankind and was the primary source of ‘crippling poverty and demeaning inequality’. Not all socialists completely disagree from conservatives however, as social democrat Anthony Crosland advocated for a mixed economy, comprised of both public and private ownership. He had the view that capitalism could benefit society by bringing economic growth and employment. This shows that socialist thinkers can have views that are more in line with traditional conservatives who aren’t too sure of capitalism, bringing a mix of both ideologies.

Another area in where the two ideologies do not line up is Society. Traditional conservatives like Burke viewed society as a collection of small communities which are hierarchical in structure. This is called ‘Noblesse Oblige’, where those in power and authority exercise their power in the interests of the majority. Whereas fundamentalist socialists such as Marx found such ideas to be patronising and the embodiment of exploitation and inequality. Generally, the majority of socialist thinkers would regard Burke’s interpretation of society as flawed due to its class conflict and that it only serves the inequality gap. All socialists believe in equality of opportunity and social justice, ideas which simply do not fit with Burke’s model, showing a key difference between the two ideologies. There is a similarity between the two however, in terms of the Disraelian approach. Some conservatives are at odds with Burkes ideas, and yet mirror socialist principles. One nation conservatism promoted social stability and the reduction in the inequality gap. Disraeli believed that if society was divided into groups, the powerful and powerless for example, we would see a society of two nations. He argued that unity was needed to avoid revolution and class conflict, while widening opportunities for all. One nation conservatism appears to be a middle ground, bringing in aspects of both conservatism and socialism, showing that although they have their differences, like all aspects, there are parts which also line up.

The final aspect to look at is Property. Conservative thinkers generally defend the right to own private property, for example, land and houses. In the 80’s, Thatcher’s ‘Right to buy scheme’ paved the way for people living in council owned housing to purchase their own houses on affordable terms. She believed that people would have greater sense in society if they were homeowners, they would be stakeholders in society and therefore more responsible. Socialist thinkers, however, believe that property ownership brings a rise in inequality and the increased chance of exploiting others, the opposite of their conservative counterparts. For fundamentalist socialists, capitalism must be abolished meaning there would be no place for private property. This stand of socialism was based on common ownership, rather than private. Similar to other aspects, not all socialists agreed with this view, with Social democrats again taking a more in between stance. Crosland believed that working within a capitalist economy and allowing private ownership was possible, as this state would allow economic growth leading to job creation, ultimately reducing inequalities. It is the case that in modern times, political parties that were founded with socialist principles have moved away from the concept of common ownership, showing that they are not as different as they originally appear.