

A Level Politics

POLITICAL IDEAS BOOKLET



Liberalism, Conservatism, Socialism & Feminism

Name:

Group:

Liberalism



Liberalism is seen essentially as a product of The Enlightenment as it recognises that humans are rational creatures capable of understanding the world and making decision for themselves. The defining feature of liberalism is its belief in individualism and freedom.

Core values overview

- **Freedom/ liberty:** the individual has primacy over all other groups
- **Individualism:** individuals should be able to make decision based on their own interests and this should be protected by law
- **Rationalism/reason:** humans are capable of reason and logical, are able to make their own choices and society is progressive
- **Equality/ social justice:** everyone in society should be treated fairly. Belief in equal human rights for all. Social justice is about providing people with their 'fair share' to exist in society
- **Liberal democracy:** the will of the people should be respected and demonstrated through elections, with limited Government and respect for civil liberties.
- **Tolerance:** promotion of social harmony, pluralism and acceptance of difference. Based on the assumption that humans are separate and unique creatures.

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH CORE IDEA USING YOUR RESOURCES

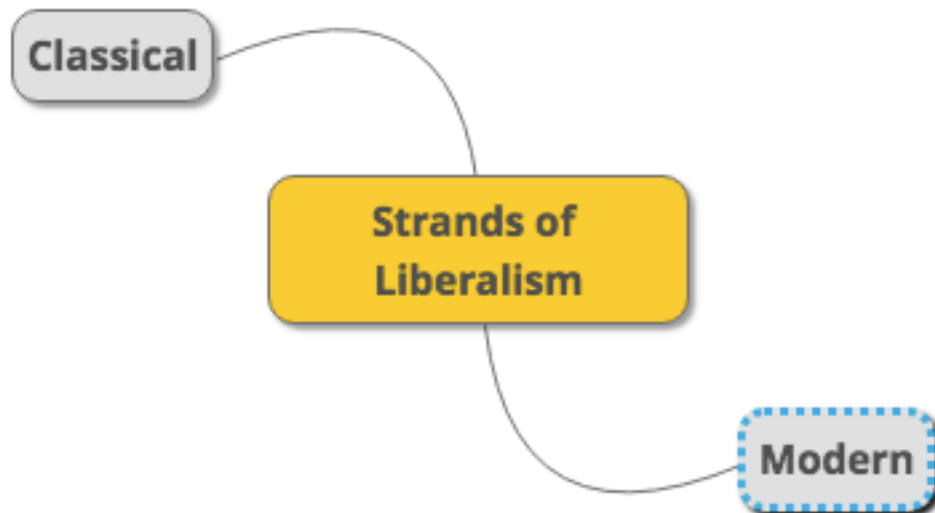
Core idea:	Liberal view:
Human nature	

The state	
Society	
The Economy	

Different strands of 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'.

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH STRAND USING YOUR RESOURCES



TASK: DEFINE EACH KEY TERM AS IT RELATES TO LIBERALISM

Foundational equality

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Formal equality

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Equality of opportunity

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Social contract

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Meritocracy

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Mechanistic Theory

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Tolerance

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Limited Government

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Harm Principle

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Minimal State

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Enabling State

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Egoistic individualism

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Developmental individualism

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Negative Freedom

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Positive Freedom

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Keynesianism

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Laissez-faire capitalism

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Justice

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Reason

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Natural rights

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Utilitarianism

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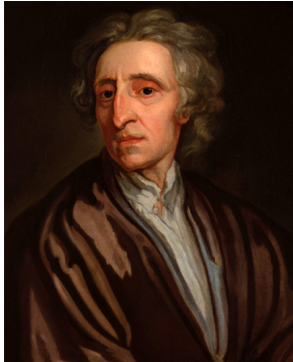
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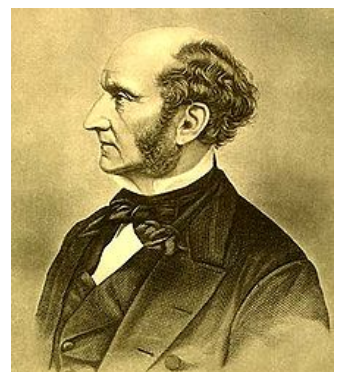
Key Thinkers Task: MAKE NOTES ON EACH KEY THINKER USING YOUR RESOURCES

You should include their most important **work** and the main **contribution/s** this person has made to the liberal tradition

- **John Locke (1632-1704)**- Social contract theory and Limited government



- **John Stuart Mill (1806-73)**- Harm principle and Tolerance



➤ **John Rawls (1921-2002)**- Theory of Justice and the Veil of ignorance



Liberalism Summary table

	Classical Liberalism	Modern Liberalism
Summarise views on the state		
Summarise views on freedom		
Thinkers		

What do classical and modern liberals agree on?	What do they disagree on?

Conservatism



Conservatism seeks to conserve society as it is and is suspicious of rapid or radical change. Conservatism values pragmatism over ideological thinking. However, the New Right strand the 1970s and 1980s challenged much of what conservatism had traditionally stood for.

Core values overview

- **Pragmatism:** conservatives adapt their values and objectives over time, according to changes in society.
- **Tradition:** established customs and traditions are important because they are God-given therefore beyond question.
- **Human imperfection:** harsh controls and punishment are important because humans are naturally selfish and irrational
- **Organic society:** everyone in society has a different function; this means inequality is natural and acceptable
- **Hierarchy and authority:** hierarchy is natural and authority is important because humans need guidance, order and stability
- **Property:** private ownership is important because it promotes law and order, respect, hard work and security

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH CORE IDEA USING YOUR RESOURCES

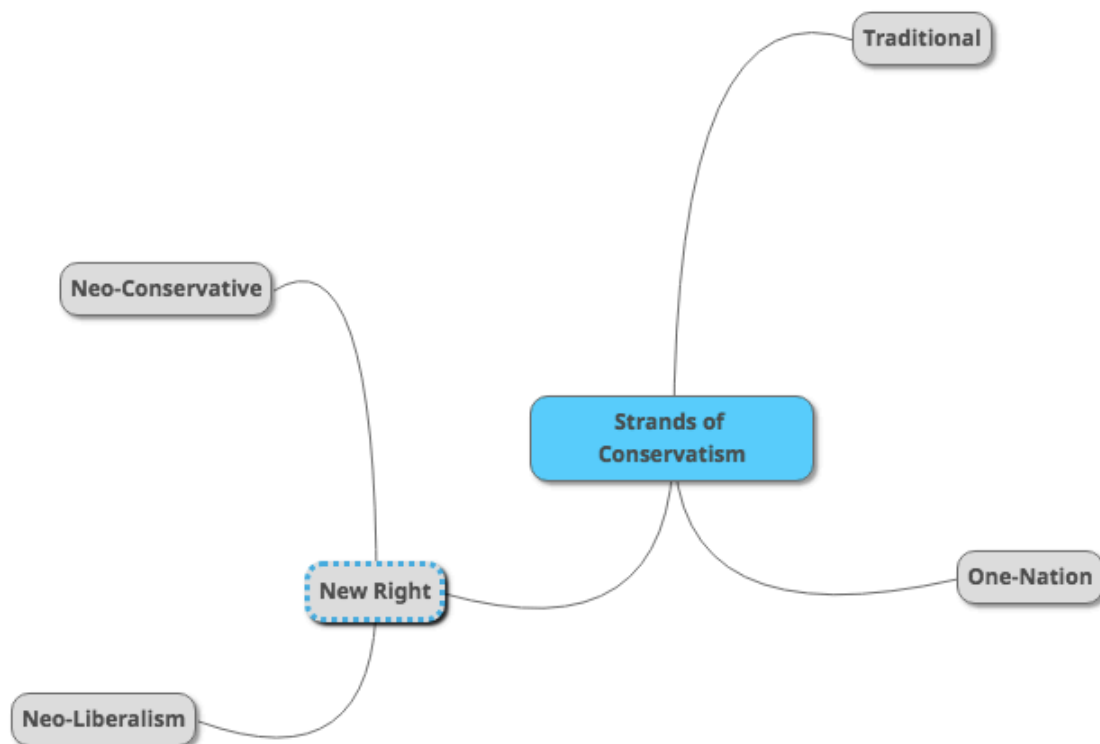
Core idea:	Conservative view:
Human nature	

The state	
Society	
The Economy	

Different strands of 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** – includes **neo-liberal**: principally concerned with free-market economics and atomistic individualism & **neo-conservative**: concerned with law and order and public morality.

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH STRAND USING YOUR RESOURCES



TASK: DEFINE EACH KEY TERM AS IT RELATES TO CONSERVATISM

Traditional conservatism key terms

Pragmatism

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Tradition

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Human imperfection

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Organic society

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Hierarchy

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Authority

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Property

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Paternalism

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One-nation conservatism key terms

One-Nation

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Noblesse oblige

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New Right conservatism key terms

New Right

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Libertarianism

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Neo-Liberalism

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Neo-Conservatism

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Atomism

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Anti-permissiveness

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Laissez-faire

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Meritocracy

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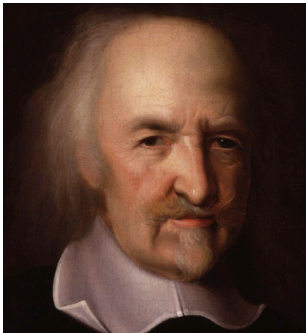
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Key Thinkers Task: MAKE NOTES ON EACH KEY THINKER USING YOUR RESOURCES

You should include their most important **work** and the main **contribution/s** this person has made to the conservative tradition

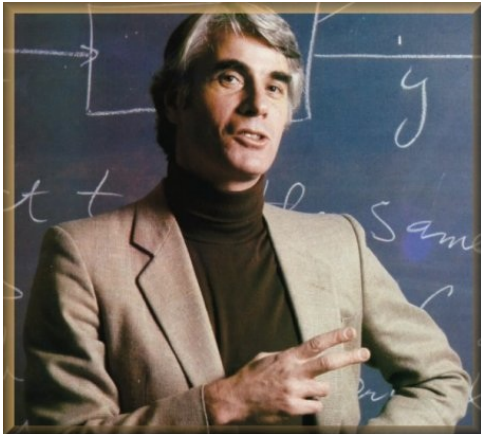
- **Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)** - Order and human nature



- **Edmund Burke (1729–1797)** - Change, Tradition and empiricism



➤ **Robert Nozick (1938–2002)** - Libertarianism and self-ownership



Conservatives Summary table

	Traditional Conservatism	New Right
Summarise views on society		
Summarise views on the economy		
Thinkers		

What do the strands of Conservatives agree on?	What do they disagree on?

Socialism



Socialism is defined by its opposition to capitalism. It aims to provide a clear alternative that is more humane and based on collectivism not individualism, co-operation not competition and social equality not inequality. There is a wide variety of traditions within socialism, with the goal of abolishing or minimising class division.

Core values overview

- **Collectivism:** collective human effort is of greater value to the economy and to society than the effort of individuals. People should work together for shared goals, based on common wants and needs, which is otherwise called 'shared fraternity'.
- **Co-operation and community:** Humans are social creatures with a tendency to co-operation, sociability and rationality. Individual cannot be understood without reference to society, as human behaviour is socially determined.
- **Equality:** Inequality is neither natural nor acceptable – however there are disagreements among socialists about the nature of equality they wish to achieve. Revolutionary Socialists (fundamentalists) favour absolute equality of outcome to be achieved by creating a classless communist society. Social Democrats (revisionists) favour social equality achieved by managing the economy and providing comprehensive health, education and welfare schemes
- **Social class:** socialists based their analysis of society, the state and the economy on the class system. Their goal is to remove or reduce social class inequality by abolishing or 'humanising' Capitalism

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH CORE IDEA USING YOUR RESOURCES

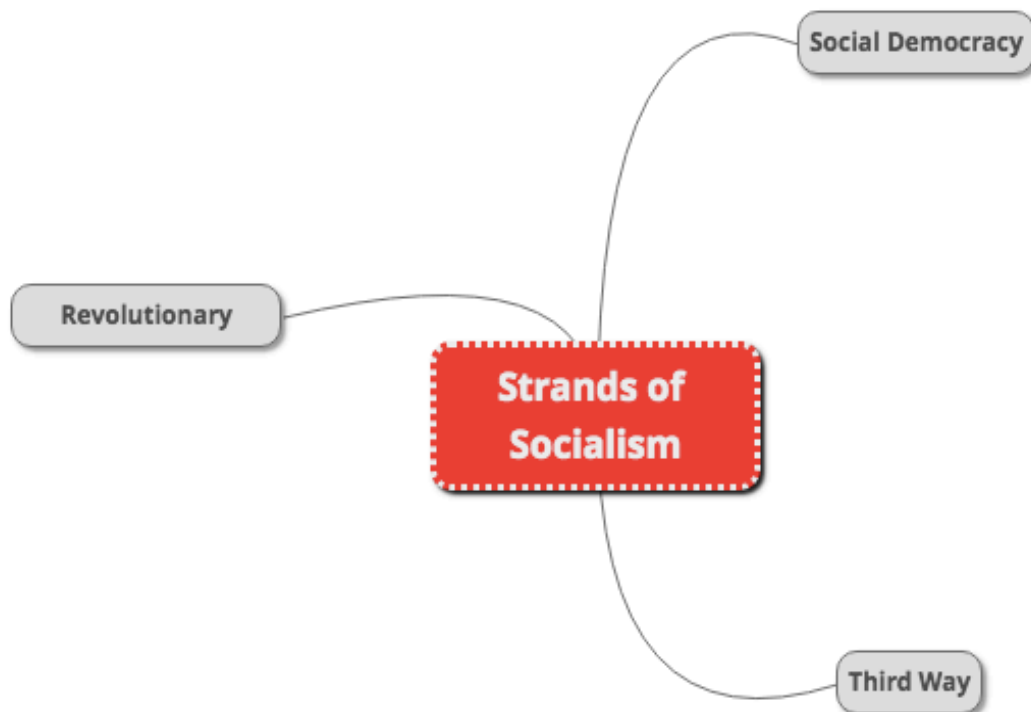
Core idea:	Socialist view:
Human nature	

The state	
Society	
The Economy	

Different strands of Socialism

- **Revolutionary socialism** – socialism can be brought about only by the overthrow of the existing political and societal structures including the abolition of Capitalism and private property.
- **Social Democracy (Revisionism)** – wishes to humanise capitalism in the interests of social justice
- **Third Way (Neo-revisionism)** – a middle-ground alternative route between socialism & capitalism

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH STRAND USING YOUR RESOURCES



TASK: DEFINE EACH KEY TERM AS IT RELATES TO SOCIALISM

Core values:

Collectivism

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Co-operation

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Community

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Common ownership

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Class politics

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Fraternity

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Revolutionary Socialism key terms:

Revolutionary Socialism

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Capitalism

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Communism

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Proletariat / Bourgeoisie

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Exploitation

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Alienation

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False consciousness

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Class consciousness

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Historical materialism

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Dialectic

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Social Democracy key terms:

Evolutionary Socialism

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Welfare State

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Revisionism

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Social Equality / Social Justice

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Trade Unionism

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Post-war social democratic consensus

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Third Way key terms:

Neo-revisionism (third way)

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Post Thatcher neo-Liberal consensus

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New Labour

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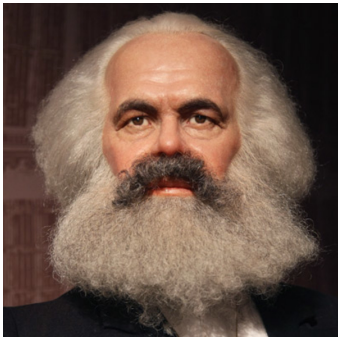
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Key Thinkers Task: MAKE NOTES ON EACH KEY THINKER USING YOUR RESOURCES

You should include their most important **work** and the main **contribution/s** this person has made to the socialist tradition

- **Karl Marx (1818–83) and Friedrich Engels (1820–95)** – Revolutionary Socialism & Communism



- **Anthony Crosland (1918–77)** – Social democracy and state-managed Capitalism



- **Anthony Giddens (1938–)** – Third Way and Free Market economic

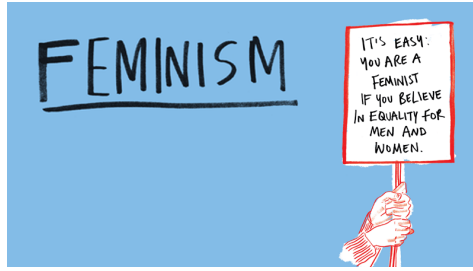
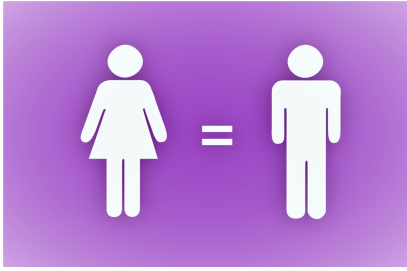


Socialism Summary table

	Revolutionary Socialism	Social Democracy	Third Way
Summarise views on the state			
Summarise views on the economy			
Thinkers			

What do the strands of Socialism agree on?	What do they disagree on?

Feminism



Feminism is an ideology based on the belief that society is characterised by unequal gender power and status. All forms of feminism are committed to advancing the social role of women, ensuring that the disadvantages they face can and should be overthrown.

Core values overview

- **Sex & Gender:** sex refers to biological differences between men and women, whereas gender refers to the different roles that society ascribes to men and women
- **Patriarchy:** society is characterised by systematic institutionalised and pervasive gender oppression
- **The personal is political:** the idea that all relationships, both in society and in private relationships, between men and women are based on power and dominance
- **Equality feminism:** equality feminists seek equality for men and women in society
- **Difference feminism:** difference feminists argue that men and women have a fundamentally different nature from one another
- **Intersectionality:** argues that black and working-class women's experiences of patriarchy are different from white, middle-class women

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH CORE IDEA USING YOUR RESOURCES

Core idea:	Feminist view:
Human nature	

The state	
Society	
The Economy	

Different strands of Feminism

- **Liberal feminism** – sees individualism as the basis of gender equality
- **Socialist feminism** – believes that gender inequality stems from economics and that capitalism creates patriarchy

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH STRAND USING YOUR RESOURCES

Liberal:



Socialist:

Different strands of Feminism

- **Radical feminism** – believes that the biggest problem facing society is gender inequality
- **Post-modern feminism** – argues that patriarchy manifests in different ways depending on a woman's race, class etc.

TASK: MAKE NOTES ON EACH STRAND USING YOUR RESOURCES

Radical:

Post-modern:

TASK: DEFINE EACH KEY TERM AS IT RELATES TO FEMINISM

Sex

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Gender

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Public sphere

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Private sphere

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Essentialism

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Gender stereotypes

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Discrimination

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Equality of opportunity

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Political equality

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Legal equality

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Gender equality

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Reserve army of labour

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Cultural feminism

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Reformist

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Otherness

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Equality feminism

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Difference feminism

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Intersectionality

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Patriarchy

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First Wave

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Second Wave

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Third Wave

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Key Thinkers Task: MAKE NOTES ON EACH KEY THINKER USING YOUR RESOURCES

You should include their most important **work** and the main **contribution/s** this person has made to the feminist tradition

- **Sheila Rowbotham (1943-)** - Socialist feminism, critique of capitalism



- **Kate Millett (1934– 2017)** – Radical feminism, undoing the traditional family



- **Bell Hooks (1952–)** - Post-modern feminism, women of colour & intersectionality



Feminism Summary table

Strand of feminism	Key beliefs	Key thinkers
Liberal		
Socialist		
Radical		
Postmodern		

What do the difference strands agree on?	What do they disagree on?

Exam style Questions

24 mark questions. Spend 35 minutes answering these questions.

You must use appropriate thinkers you have studied to support your answer and consider both sides in a balanced way.

Conservatism

- To what extent do different conservatives agree on the importance of paternalism?
- To what extent are conservatives pragmatic?
- To what extent do Conservatives differ over the role of the state?
- To what extent do conservatives agree about human nature?
- To what extent do conservatives disagree about the state's role in the economy?
- To what extent do conservatives agree on pragmatism?
- To what extent is conservatism a philosophy of imperfection?
- To what extent is conservatism a coherent ideology?
- To what extent do conservatives agree that human nature is imperfect?
- To what extent do conservatives agree over the nature of society?

Liberalism

- To what extent do modern and classical liberals agree over the role of the state?
- To what extent is there agreement between classical and modern liberals?
- To what extent have modern liberals abandoned individualism and embraced collectivism?
- To what extent do modern liberals depart from the ideas of classical liberalism?
- To what extent do liberals disagree over the role of the state?
- To what extent do liberals support equality?
- To what extent have modern liberals abandoned the concept of negative liberty in favour of the concept of positive liberty?
- To what extent do modern and classical liberals agree over the role of the state?
- To what extent can liberalism be reconciled to collectivism?
- To what extent do modern and classical liberals agree over the nature of the state?
- To what extent do liberals believe in equality?

Socialism

- To what extent are Socialists committed to 'equality of outcome'?
- To what extent do different socialists agree over the role of the state?
- To what extent do socialists agree on both the means and the ends of socialism?
- To what extent are socialists committed to the abolition of capitalism?
- To what extent is socialism committed to collectivism?
- To what extent is socialism committed to equality?
- To what extent do socialists disagree about the economy?
- To what extent are socialists committed to equality of outcome?
- 'Socialists have disagreed over means rather than ends'. To what extent is this true?
- To what extent have socialists agreed that the existing state must be destroyed in order to achieve socialism?

Feminism

- To what extent is the disagreement within feminism about the nature of men and women significant to this political idea?
- To what extent do Feminists disagree about the role of the state?
- To what extent do feminists agree that 'the personal is political'?
- To what extent do feminists identify patriarchy as a natural aspect of human nature?
- To what extent is equality rather than difference the goal of feminism?
- To what extent do feminists agree on sex and gender?
- To what extent do feminists agree over the concept of patriarchy?
- To what extent do radical feminists criticise liberal feminism?
- To what extent do feminists believe that patriarchy is essentially an economically based issue?
- To what extent is feminism a single doctrine?

A level Political Ideas Template (Core and non-core)

This table outlines a possible approach to writing an answer to the A Level Political Ideas Section Core and Non-core on Section C in Components 1 & 2

AO1 8 Marks	AO2 8 Marks	AO3 8 Marks
Knowledge - base	Analysis – scrutiny and probing	Making a judgment – substantiated, not opinionated
<p>Division/tension within a core and non-core idea OR differing views on one of the 4 key areas (economy, the state, society and human nature)</p> <p>Tension/differences from one perspective :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A • B • C • Etc <p>Points against the perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X • Y • Z • Etc 	<p>Consideration and probing of points from one perspective. Looking for connections and linkages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A • B • C • Etc <p>Consideration and probing of points AGAINST that perspective and investigating their worth. Looking for connections and linkages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X • Y • Z • Etc 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which side of the debate has more credence? 2. Why is that perspective stronger? 3. Rank in importance the analytical points (AO2) for, e.g. B C A 4. Rank in importance the analytical (AO2) points against, e.g. Z Y X 5. Think holistically and reason through to reach a conclusion. 6. Form and come to a judgment, evidence not opinion based. 7. Discuss possible applications of the political idea to the wider study of politics
Reference is made in the response to at least TWO political thinkers cited in the specification to gain above Level 2 marks		

Tips:

- Spend 30-35 minutes answering the 24 marks question
- Have a balanced essay – look at both sides of the debate
 - Compare and contrast ideas – what do they agree and disagree on? Similarities and Differences?
(On liberalism e.g. classical liberals vs. modern liberals view on the state, human nature, economy, freedom etc.)
 - Refer to three thinkers in connection to your points (must do this in order to score higher than a Level 2 - greater than 8 marks)

P.E.E.L - Point, Explain (compare the different strands on the key ideas), Evidence (key thinkers, application) and Link (link back to the question and evaluate – are there fundamental differences/similarities etc.)