Revision

Theory and methods exam practice

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Use this exam-style question to help you revise.

Although this question broadly follows the format of part of an AQA question on Theory and methods, it would be useful to answer it whichever specification you are following.

**Question**

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<td>Feminist views of society offer explanations for the inequalities that exist between males and females in almost all areas of life, including the family, education and work.</td>
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<td>However, there are differences between feminists regarding the most suitable approaches to eliminate such differences and achieve greater equality between the sexes.</td>
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Applying material from the item and your knowledge, evaluate the contribution of feminists to understanding society. (20 marks)

**Guidance notes**

As with any question that has an item, the first (and very important) thing to do is to read the item carefully — you will have to refer to and use parts of it in your answer. Remember, though, not simply to copy phrases and sentences without using them in some way. They are a good way of demonstrating both knowledge and analysis.

Remember too that there is no single way of writing a high-quality answer. The notes below offer some guidance, but you may wish to take a different approach, or structure your answer differently. Make sure that you make explicit reference to the item, though.

- The first sentence gives you the opportunity to refer (briefly) to some of the inequalities that exist between males and females in some (preferably all) of the areas listed — family, education and work. Be careful when talking about education — the inequalities are different from those in the past. Keep this part short.

- Your next sections could look at the different explanations that different groups of feminists have offered for such inequalities — the concept of patriarchy will obviously be important here. You should write a concise account of each of the different feminist views — Marxist, liberal, black, etc. — keeping the focus on the explanations offered.

- Your final sections could look at the different proposals offered by the different feminist groups for the achievement of greater equality between the sexes.
• It would also be important to point out that gender inequalities are also affected by other social roles, such as those of class and ethnicity, so not all types of inequality affect all females (or males) in the same way.

Remember that you have been asked to ‘evaluate the contribution’ of feminists. Some of the contributions you mention might apply to all feminists (for example developing the concept of patriarchy), while you may wish to argue that some types of feminist have made more positive contributions than others — give reasons if you are doing this.

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