

**14** To what extent do liberals agree on equality?

**4 marks**

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**15** To what extent does positive freedom differ from negative freedom?

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## Key thinkers

### John Locke (1632–1704)

Ideas	Statements
Natural rights of man: individuals should make their own decisions about where and how they live. Government by the consent of the governed, who give up some personal freedoms in return for personal security.	'Every man has a property in his own person. This nobody has a right to, but himself.' 'Being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions.'

### Mary Wollstonecraft (1759–97)

Ideas	Statements
Personal and political freedom should be promoted, including for women. Imagines a social order founded on reason, as men and women are rational beings and capable of self-determination.	'The divine right of husbands, like the divine right of kings, may, it is hoped, in this enlightened age, be contested without danger.' 'Women ought to have representatives, instead of being arbitrarily governed without any direct share allowed them in the deliberations of government.'

### John Stuart Mill (1806–73)

Ideas	Statements
Advocates the moral and economic freedoms of individuals from both the government and society. Utilitarianism: actions should be focused on what benefits the majority.	'The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others.' 'The only freedom ... is pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs.'

**John Rawls (1921–2002)**

Ideas	Statements
Modern liberalism: Rawls defends a more egalitarian liberalism. Argues for access to basic liberties which should be open to all – equality of opportunity.	'A just society is a society that if you knew everything about it, you'd be willing to enter it in a random place.' 'Liberal democracy is supposed to ensure that each citizen is free and equal and protected by basic rights and liberties.'

**Betty Friedan (1921–2006)**

Ideas	Statements
Seeks equal political and legal rights for women. Argues that marriage is an outdated institution which fetters women.	'Who knows what women can be when they are finally free to become themselves.' 'A girl should not expect special privileges because of her sex, but neither should she "adjust" to privilege and discrimination.'

**Practice questions****AO1 Knowledge and understanding****16** What does Mill believe about freedom?**2 marks**

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**17** What does Wollstonecraft believe about human nature?**2 marks**

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**18** How does Locke describe the relationship between government and individuals?**2 marks**

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**19** What does Rawls believe about equality?**2 marks**

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**AO2 Analysis****20** How can Mill's arguments be linked to individualism?**4 marks**

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**21** How can Wollstonecraft's arguments be linked to freedom?

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**22** How can Locke's arguments be linked to rationalism?

**4 marks**

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**23** How can Friedan's arguments be linked to liberal views of equality?

**4 marks**

### Worked example

Friedan's idea that women should be treated equally to men is an example of the liberal view of foundational equality, in which all people have the same value in society. Her denouncement of marriage is an example of formal equality: women's inequality in the institution of marriage went against liberal views of equality. Friedan's views therefore support both classical and modern liberalism's conceptions of equality.

A01 Clearly defines the link between Friedan's ideas and equality.

A02 Adds analysis to support the link made.

A03 Supported with evaluation which has been substantiated.

**24** How can Rawls' arguments be linked to liberal democracy?

**4 marks**

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### AO3 Evaluation

**25** To what extent do Mill and Rawls hold views in common?

**4 marks**

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**26** To what extent do Wollstonecraft and Friedan hold views in common?

**4 marks**

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## Differing views and tensions

### Classical liberalism

Classical liberalism has a complicated relationship with the state as it particularly emphasises strict limits to the size, role and nature of government. The relationship between the individual and the state is one of a contract, where governments represent individuals and safeguard rights based upon the consent they have given. These rights are based on the concept of foundational or formal equality, where all are born equal, with equal moral worth, and everyone should have the same formal status in society with the same rights and entitlements: equality before the law.

Negative freedom, or freedom from, means freedom from any limits or restraints. Classical liberals' conception of the market is derived from their views of the state. So laissez-faire economics and free trade are key features of a market that is characterised by a lack of state interference and control. This free market guarantees equality.

### Modern liberalism

Modern liberalism states that equality of opportunity can only be achieved if there is a reduction in social inequality, which may lead to some equality of outcome. This would take place in conjunction with a more positive role for the state. Modern liberals believe in a positive freedom where the enabling state promotes equality of opportunity and creates the conditions for people to choose to progress. The state has a role to play, for modern liberals, in providing the welfare that enables individuals to help themselves, or in Keynesian economic interventions, to guarantee equality of opportunity.

### Practice questions



#### AO1 Knowledge and understanding

**27** Define foundational equality.

**2 marks**

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**28** What is the classical liberal view of the role of the state?

**2 marks**

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