

7.4 Darwinism, Social Darwinism

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 11 marks**

KEY WORDS social darwinism 社会达尔文主义

Objective

Build the skills to distinguish **Darwin’s science** from **Social Darwinism** 社会达尔文主义.

You must be able to:

- state what Darwin provided
- state what the CED’s adverb ‘inadvertently’ does
- explain why the misuse was available
- keep the science and the social claim apart in an answer

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ What Darwin provided

A scientific and material account of biological change and the development of human beings as a species. **Material** means the account requires no purpose and no designer.

■ ‘Inadvertently’

The CED says he inadvertently provided a justification for racist theories that became known as Social Darwinism. The adverb separates the science from the use made of it.

■ Why available

A vocabulary of struggle, fitness and survival transfers easily to societies if nobody checks whether the transfer is valid — and it arrived when imperial ventures needed justification and chauvinism needed a language.

■ Keeping them apart

State the scientific claim, state the social claim, then name the gap: a description of how species change is not an instruction about how societies should be arranged.

2 Practice

2.1 State what Darwin provided and what “material” means here. [2]

2.2 Explain what the adverb “inadvertently” achieves. [2]

2.3 A vocabulary of struggle is transferred from biology to society.

(a) State the missing step. [1]

(b) State why the transfer was attractive at the time. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 “Material” indicates that the account requires no [1]

- **A** evidence
- **B** purpose or designer
- **C** observation
- **D** publication

3.2 The correct statement is that the science was [1]

- **A** proof of racial hierarchy
- **B** taken up to justify hierarchy, not that it entailed one
- **C** unrelated to any social claim
- **D** invented for that purpose

3.3 A student writes that Darwin's theory proved some peoples superior.

(a) State the error. [1]

(b) Explain the correct formulation. [2]

Solutions

2.1 a scientific and material account of biological change and human development; material means it requires no purpose or designer.

2.2 it separates the science from the use made of it, so the theory is not said to entail the social claim.

2.3 (a) an argument that the transfer is valid, which is never made. (b) imperial ventures needed justification and chauvinism needed a language.

3.1 B. no purpose or designer is required.

3.2 B. taken up, not entailed.

3.3 (a) the theory describes biological change and entails no social hierarchy. (b) the science was taken up to justify hierarchy, and the step from description to prescription was assumed rather than argued.