

9.6 Contemporary Western Democracies

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS welfare state 福利国家 • increase in welfare benefits 福利待遇
• economic stagnation 经济停滞

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **welfare state** 福利国家 and its critics.

You must be able to:

- state the CED's one-sentence claim about growth and welfare
- explain why 'limitation' is not abolition
- place this in the sequence of liberalism's positions
- write the third sentence most answers omit

1 Worked examples

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

■ The claim

Postwar economic growth supported an increase in welfare benefits; **however**, subsequent economic stagnation led to criticism and limitation of the welfare state.

■ Limitation, not abolition

The CED says criticism and **limitation**. The accurate claim is that the welfare state was contested and constrained and survived in constrained form.

■ The sequence

6.9: liberalism shifted from laissez-faire to intervention. 8.11: all three ideologies enlarged the state. 9.6: stagnation produces criticism and limitation. The argument turns again, and the CED takes no side.

■ The third sentence

State the growth-and-benefits half, then the stagnation-and-criticism half, then **what survived**. Most answers stop at two.

2 Practice

2.1 State the CED's two-part claim. [2]

2.2 Explain why "limitation" is not abolition. [2]

2.3 Liberalism's position changes three times across the course.

(a) Name the three positions in order. [3]

(b) State what the CED does about taking sides. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The benefits rested on [1]

- **A** stagnation
- **B** growth continuing
- **C** foreign aid
- **D** military spending

3.2 The sentence most answers omit states [1]

- **A** what was promised
- **B** what survived
- **C** the date
- **D** the author

3.3 A benefit funded from growth is a promise about the future.

(a) State when the question of payment arises.

[1]

(b) Explain why it then arrives as an accusation.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 postwar growth supported an increase in welfare benefits; subsequent stagnation led to criticism and limitation of the welfare state.

2.2 the CED says criticism and limitation, not abolition; the welfare state was constrained and survived in constrained form.

2.3 (a) laissez-faire; interventionist; criticised and limited. (b) it records the turn without taking a side.

3.1 B. growth is what supported them.

3.2 B. what survived the criticism.

3.3 (a) when growth stops. (b) it arrives all at once rather than gradually, and after years in which nobody had to justify the arrangement.