

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	B
C	D

A evidence

B purpose or designer

C observation

D publication

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

A	B
C	D

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]
