

Socialism: Activities

Applying socialist ideas (A01, A02)

Stated below are a series of different political situations. Carefully read through the descriptions and then consider how individuals in support of socialism would choose to respond in these different situations. Remember to also consider whether Marxists and Social Democrats would be likely to agree or disagree upon their response. Give reasons to explain your conclusions in the different situations and try to refer back to some of the key elements of Socialism (e.g. community, co-operation, equality, class and common control) in doing so.

A government deciding to privatise the railway service, arguing that it will enable different private providers to compete for the agreement leading to higher standards and lower prices

A government announcing that it will freeze expenditure on benefits to cut taxes in the hope that this will stimulate economic growth.

A wide coalition of trade unions coming together to organise a general strike as part of an attempt to undermine or demolish government.

A government introducing legislation in order to nationalise a series of important economic sectors - e.g. electricity, coal and steel - in order to ensure that activity in these areas comes under public control.