

# How to tackle a theory 20 marker

Specimen Paper 3 June 2016

**1** Decode the question – ‘the usefulness’ – conclusions should be made on how useful each of the contributions you put forward are – either judgements on each contribution and/or evaluative conclusion

**2** Mine the item – for this type of question the item is often a hint at what direction(s) your essay should take – here it hints at including neo-Marxist ideas as well as traditional ones

**3** Contributions should include those of at least 3 major theorists for each perspective. You can also use contributions from across the specification

Functionalism	Marxism	Feminism	Interactionism	Social Action
Durkheim	Marx	Oakley	Becker	Weber
Parsons	Gramsci	Walby	Goffman	Blumer
Merton	Althusser	Leonard	Mead	Douglas

Read **Item C** below and answer the question that follows.

### Item C

Marxists see society as based on conflict between social classes. Those who own the means of production are able to exploit those who do not and are also able to impose their views on society.

However, different Marxists have different views about the nature of capitalist society and about how social change occurs.

Applying material from **Item C** and your knowledge, evaluate the usefulness of Marxist approaches in understanding society.

[20 marks]

**4**

Each paragraph should identify a contribution, explain the contribution and outline how it has contributed to our understanding of society. Finally a judgement on it's effectiveness should be made.

Suggested theorists: You should look to include the work of these and at least one other from your studies to make sure you get a good range and depth. Can sub in branches of feminism if required