

EXAM QUESTIONS – WOMEN IN AUTHORITARIAN STATES

“The domestic policies of authoritarian states rarely benefitted women.”
Discuss with reference to two authoritarian states.

Candidates will give a considered and balanced review of the hypothesis that the domestic policies of authoritarian states rarely benefitted women. While the focus of the response must be within the timeframe of this topic, the examples chosen need not be contemporaneous with each other. The states may or may not come from different regions. Candidates may refer to the condition of women before authoritarianism was established, and discuss the extent of benefit or otherwise, promoted by the policies of the authoritarian state. Candidates may, for example, discuss legal, social and economic equality, or the extent of female involvement in local and national politics. Familial relations, access to education and childcare, and differences between social groups may also be discussed. The states may be considered separately, or a thematic approach may be adopted.

Compare and contrast the impact of the policies of two authoritarian states on women.

The question requires that candidates give an account of the similarities and differences between the impact of policies on women in two authoritarian states. The two states may or may not be from different regions and they may or may not have been contemporaneous with each other. The impact may extend briefly beyond the timeframe of the world history topic, but it must be clearly linked to the issue raised in the question. Candidates may refer to, for example, Castro’s educational policies and provision of childcare, Mao’s marriage law, Hitler’s policies towards female employment, or Peron’s reforms of maternity rights. Both similarities and differences must be clearly indicated but there does not need to be an equal number of each.