

Exercise walk-through

Darwinism, Social Darwinism ■ 7.4

eXercise

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

Method — 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.

Method — '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.

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what Darwin provided and what “material” means here.

Solution 2.1

Method: What Darwin provided

Worked steps

a scientific and material account of biological change and human development **B1**;
material means it requires no purpose or designer **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what the adverb “inadvertently” achieves.

Solution 2.2

Method: 'Inadvertently'

Worked steps

it separates the science from the use made of it **B1**, so the theory is not said to entail the social claim **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A vocabulary of struggle is transferred from biology to society.

(a) State the missing step.

(b) State why the transfer was attractive at the time.

Solution 2.3

Method: Why available

Worked steps

(a) an argument that the transfer is valid, which is never made **B1**. (b) imperial ventures needed justification and chauvinism needed a language **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

“Material” indicates that the account requires no

- A** evidence
- B** purpose or designer
- C** observation
- D** publication

Solution 3.1

Method: What Darwin provided

- A evidence
- B purpose or designer 
- C observation
- D publication

Worked steps

B. no purpose or designer is required.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The correct statement is that the science was

- 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

Solution 3.2

- 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

Worked steps

B. taken up, not entailed.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A student writes that Darwin's theory proved some peoples superior.

- (a) State the error.
- (b) Explain the correct formulation.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) the theory describes biological change and entails no social hierarchy **B1**. (b) the science was taken up to justify hierarchy **B1**, and the step from description to prescription was assumed rather than argued **B1**.