



### Midterm Exam

### I. LISTENING SECTION (10 points)

Berkeley professor explains gender theory. Big Think.

1. In your own words, what is the main idea of the video? (2 points)

Explain how the reality changes when the society needs it, Judith Butler discussed this point thought the gender theory topic and the roles we assumed in the society

2. Fill in the blanks with information from the video (01:30 – 02:26). (2 points / 0.2 each)

"I insist that what it is to be a woman, or indeed what it is to be a man or any other gender, is an open-ended question. We have a whole range of differences, biological in nature, so I don't deny them, but I don't think they determine who we are in some sort of final way. At the heart of these controversy is the distinction between sex and gender. But what is that distinction? How do we think about it? Sex is generally a category that is assigned to infants that has importance within medical and legal worlds. Gender is a mix of cultural norms, historical formations; family influence, psychic realities, desires and wishes, and we have a say in that."

3. After watching the video, decide if the following statements are ( T ) true or ( F ) false. Make sure to correct the information when necessary. (3 points / 1 point each)

a. According to Judith Butler, the Jews were the only group that was extinguished by the Nazi regime. ( F )

~~There were also gays, lesbians and disable people~~

b. During the 70's and 80's Judith Butler and her collective worked on the concept of Trans issues as part of their contemporary reality. ( T ) X

c. The author does not agree with the feminist concept that women are fundamentally mothers and maternity is the essence of the feminine. ( T )

4. Match the following ideas to create sentences that reflect the content of the video: (3 points, 1 point each)

a. Even though there is a clear biological distinction between men and women... ( b ) ...the social movements that took place during the 1960's in north America.

b. Judith Butler's critical character and activism are part of her personality due to ( C ) For example, many people have been subjected to genocidal politics.

c. It's important to understand that there are different forms of oppression. ( a ) ...this should not determine who we are or our role in society.

### II. READING SECTION (10 Points)

Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

## Transgender women banned from women's chess events<sup>1</sup>

BBC

17 August 2023

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) says it is temporarily banning transgender women<sup>2</sup> from competing in its women's events.

The FIDE said individual cases would require "further analysis" and that a decision could take up to two years. The move has been criticised by some players and enthusiasts.

Many sports governing bodies have been working on policies towards transgender athletes, but chess does not involve comparable levels of physical activity.

However, the FIDE told the BBC it wanted to analyse the impact of these policies and did not want to rush this process.

"The transgender legislation is rapidly developing in many countries and many sport bodies are adopting their own policies," it said.

"FIDE will be monitoring these developments and see how we can apply them to the world of chess. Two years is a scope of sight that seemed reasonable for the thorough analyses of such developments."

It added that transgender players could still compete in the open section of its tournaments.

Yosha Iglesias, a trans woman professional chess player with the FIDE rank of chess master, said the policy would lead to "unnecessary harm" for trans players and women.

Woman Grandmaster and two-time US Women's Champion Jennifer Shahade also criticised the FIDE decision, saying the policy was "ridiculous and dangerous".

"It's obvious they didn't consult with any transgender players in constructing it... I strongly urge FIDE to reverse course on this and start from scratch with better consultants," Ms Shahade said.

UK MP Angela Eagle, who was a joint winner of the 1976 British Girls' Under-18 chess championship, said: "There is no physical advantage in chess unless you believe men are inherently more able to play than women - I spent my chess career being told women's brains were smaller than men's and we shouldn't even be playing."

"This ban is ridiculous and offensive to women," she added.

In its policy decision, FIDE also said that trans men who had won women's titles before transitioning would see their titles abolished.

Chess is classified as a sport by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Last month, the world's cycling governing body ruled that transgender women would be prevented from competing in female events.

Meanwhile on Wednesday World Aquatics said it would debut a new open category for transgender athletes at this year's Swimming World Cup event in Berlin after it voted last year to stop transgender athletes from competing in women's elite races.

1. What is the main idea presented in the text? (2 points)

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-66538328>

<sup>2</sup> A transgender woman is someone assigned male at birth but whose gender identity is female.

Expose information about the participation of trans people in sports such as chess, in specify its controversies with the FIDE policies

1/10

2. Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the information given. Correct the false statements. (4 points / 1 point each)

a. The decision of banning transgender women was censured, mainly by the government and society in general. (F)

3/10 They exposed that information in the media

b. According to FIDE's position, it is possible that some trans athletes lose previously won titles. (T)

c. Yosha thinks that FIDE is attacking and hurting trans athletes. (F) X

she said it would affect trans and woman chess players

d. According to the article, chess is not considered an Olympic sport because it does not involve comparable levels of physical activity like other sports. (F)

according to the International Olympic Committee, chess is a sport

3. Choose the best answer to each question, according to the information given in the text. (4 points / 1 point each)

I. Why does the FIDE say it needs two years after its decision to temporarily ban transgender women from competing in its women's events?

- a. To analyse if transgender women players can compete in open tournaments and decide if these players can keep their titles.
- b. To analyse the impact of the policies adopted by other sport organisations and the development of such policies.
- c. To create a new category for transgender players, following the transgender legislation.

II. Who criticised FIDE's decision to temporarily ban transgender women from competing in its women's events?

- a. FIDE's decision was criticised by the World Aquatics and the world cycling governing body.
- b. FIDE's decision was criticised by the International Olympic Committee and some male athletes.
- c. FIDE's decision was criticised by some players such as Jennifer Shahade and Yosha Iglesias.

III. What did some players say about FIDE's move?

- a. According to some players, FIDE's decision to prevent people from participating in female events is dangerous but necessary.
- b. Some players said that FIDE'S decision to ban trans women from competing in female events is ridiculous and offensive.

c. Some players said that FIDE's decision to prevent transgender women from competing in female events is confusing and discriminatory.

IV. What does Angela Eagle mean when she says that "there is no physical advantage in chess"?

- a. It means that women are better chess players than men because this sport does not involve physical activity.
- b. It means that women are inherently less able to play chess, as men have physical advantages.
- c. It means that the performance of chess players is not determined by physical activity.

### III. WRITING SECTION (10 points)

Write an argumentative paragraph evaluating the broader implications of the restrictions on transgender women in sports as highlighted in the text. Use the concepts presented and analysed in the video as supporting ideas, considering potential effects on inclusivity, fairness, and the protection of transgender individuals' rights. (write at least 200 words)

Remember to use the concepts learned in class and to use grammar, connectors, punctuation marks, and spelling appropriately, (these aspects will be assessed).

As a society, we are in constant change. The ideas of the gender theory must be addressed somehow, there is not black and white in this topic, because these aspects of the human are very complex. However it is necessary to take a look into this topic and go ahead, ignoring it will be dangerous for all society.

Sports field is not an exception, and we must avoid banning policies without strong supporting reasons. All cases (specific sports) needs its proper evaluation and of course the participation of all parts of the society. A part of building a fair society is listening small communities proposals.

(8/10)