

## **A. DETAIL OUTLINE**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1-2 first sentences: Start by providing a brief introduction to the specific school of thought you are discussing.
- Mention its name, key proponents, and any relevant historical context.

#### **Examples:**

The Marxist school of thought, developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the 19th century, is a significant and influential ideology that provides a unique perspective on society and economics.

### **2. World View**

- 3-4 next sentences: Discuss the worldview of the school of thought.
- Explain the ideological lens through which members of this school perceive the real world. This could involve discussing their fundamental beliefs and perspectives regarding the nature of reality, society, and human behavior.
- Provide a concise overview of the core principles that underlie their worldview.

#### **Examples:**

The Marxist worldview is centered on the concept of historical materialism. It asserts that the structure of society is primarily shaped by the means of production and class struggle. Marxists view the world through the lens of a class-based society, where the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) and the proletariat (working class) are in constant conflict. They believe that capitalism inherently leads to exploitation and inequality.

### **3. Assumptions**

- 4-5 next sentences: Next, delve into the assumptions that members of this school of thought make about the world.
- These assumptions can be categorized into both questions (those that are debated or subject to critique) and unquestioned (those that are accepted as foundational without much debate).
- It's essential to be specific and provide examples of these assumptions, showcasing the school's basic premises and the reasoning behind them.

#### **Hints:**

- Assumption (Unquestioned): Marxists unquestionably assume that capitalism is inherently exploitative, with profits derived from the surplus value created by the labor of the working class.

**Example:** Capitalist societies often exhibit significant income inequality, where a small percentage of the population (the capitalist class) holds a disproportionately large share of wealth.

Reasons: Marxists contend that this income inequality results from the appropriation of surplus value by capitalists. They argue that the working class is systematically deprived of the full value of their labor, while capitalists amass wealth

- Assumption (Questioned): The idea of a classless communist society is a fundamental goal of Marxism, but it is questioned by critics who argue that such a utopian society is unattainable in practice.

Example: Marxists often highlight attempts to establish communist or socialist societies, such as the Russian Revolution of 1917 or the Cuban Revolution of 1959, as instances where the goal of a classless society was pursued.

Reasons: They contend that while these attempts may not have fully realized a classless society, they serve as evidence that people have been willing to strive for such a society in practice.

#### **4. Examples of Applications**

- 6-8 next sentences: Explore the practical applications of this school of thought.
- Discuss how it is applied in various fields, such as research areas, policy development, or real-world situations.
- Provide specific examples of research studies, policies, or initiatives that have been influenced by or aligned with the principles of this school of thought.

#### **Examples:**

- Research Areas: Marxism has significantly influenced various research areas, including economic sociology, critical theory, and historical analysis. Scholars have conducted research to understand the dynamics of class struggle, the impact of capitalism on society, and the historical development of economic systems.
- Policy Directions: Marxist principles have been applied in the development of policies aimed at reducing income inequality and addressing labor issues. For example, labor unions and workers' rights movements have been influenced by Marxist ideas in advocating for fair wages, better working conditions, and collective bargaining rights.
- Real-World Applications: The Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro in 1959 and the establishment of a socialist state in Cuba can be seen as a real-world application of Marxist ideas.

Additionally, various communist and socialist governments throughout history have attempted to implement policies in line with Marxist principles.

## 5. Reflective

- 1-2 next sentences: Connection to Other Learning Experiences: Reflecting on how the current learning experience relates to or connects with your previous learning experiences. Identify any similarities, differences, or patterns that you observe. This can help you create a broader context for your reflections.
- 1-2 next sentences: Challenges Encountered: Discuss any challenges or difficulties you faced when engaging with the concept or topic you're reflecting on. Be honest about the obstacles you encountered, whether they were related to comprehension, application, or personal biases. Reflect on how you overcame or plan to address these challenges.
- 1-2 next sentences: Personal Opinion: Explain how you feel about it, whether you find it interesting, confusing, or thought-provoking. Use this section to express your initial thoughts and feelings.
- 1-2 next sentences: Relevance/Application in the Broader Context: Consider how this concept fits into the larger academic or professional landscape. Explore how it might be valuable in solving real-world problems or contributing to your academic growth.
- 1-2 last sentences: Questions and Curiosity: What aspects of the concept intrigue you, and what would you like to explore further? Discuss the areas where you feel curious and motivated to delve deeper into the subject matter.

### **Examples:**

- **Connection to Other Learning Experiences:** This topic of Marxism is closely related to my previous coursework in sociology, where I explored various social theories and their impact on society. Learning about Marx's ideas on class struggle, inequality, and the role of capitalism provided me with a foundational understanding of social dynamics, which I can now apply to broader discussions on social and economic justice.
- **Challenges Encountered:** Understanding the nuances of Marxist theory, especially its historical context and its application in different societies, has been intellectually challenging. Additionally,

the debates and criticisms surrounding Marxism can be complex and multifaceted, making it essential to critically assess various perspectives.

- **Personal Opinion:** I find Marxism to be a thought-provoking framework for analyzing societal issues, but I also recognize the need for a balanced perspective that takes into account both its strengths and limitations. It's a valuable tool for examining power dynamics and inequalities but should be considered alongside other social theories.
- **Relevance/Application in the Broader Context:** Marxism has significant relevance in contemporary discussions on economic inequality, labor rights, and social justice. Understanding its principles can inform discussions on policy, activism, and social change.
- **Questions and Curiosity:** This topic has sparked questions about the evolution of Marxist thought over time and its adaptation in different cultural and political contexts. I'm also curious about the practical implications of Marxist ideas in today's globalized and interconnected world.

## **B. TIPS & TRICKS**

- Carefully follow the guidelines and word count limit. Stay focused and concise.
- Take time to thoughtfully analyze your concept beyond just describing it. Reflect deeply on how it impacted your perspectives.
- Support your reflections with specific examples and evidence from course materials. Make clear connections.
- Tie your analysis directly back to the key prompts provided in the instructions.
- Maintain an academic writing style but use first-person perspective to convey your personal reflections.
- Be insightful in discussing limitations, critiques, and new questions raised by the concept. Engage critically.
- Relate the concept back to broader learning goals and themes of the course.
- Keep introduction and conclusion brief; devote most words to reflective analysis.

## **C. FOOD FOR HUNGRY THOUGHTS**

- Critiquing Neoclassical Assumptions (The Economist):  
<https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/1998/07/30/the-case-for-rationality>
- Behavioral Economics in the Real World (New York Times):  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/23/business/behavioral-economics-in-the-real-world.html>

- Challenges to Rational Choice Theory (Financial Times):  
<https://www.ft.com/content/7a91e3aa-9629-11e5-9228-87e603d47bdc>
- Rational Choice Theory in Sociology (American Sociologist):  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12108-996-1009-4>
- Psychological Foundations of Neoclassical Economics (Journal of Socio-Economics):  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1053535777000147>
- Critiques of Neoclassical Economics (Post-Autistic Economics Review):  
<http://www.paecon.net/PAERreview/issue1/ArnspergerVaroufakis.htm>
- Behavioral Challenges to Rational Choice Theory (Political Psychology):  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3792282>