OCR H573 | INDEPENDENT REVISION

A* Model Essay

Liberation Theology & Marx

Christian Thought

Can liberation theology use Marxist analysis without allowing Marxism to redefine the Christian gospel?

1,674 response words | Complete annotated PDF | Individual topic edition

What is included

A complete original response, an argument plan, paragraph-level AO1/AO2 annotations and source works for further reading.

A* describes the intended style of this teaching model. This is independently written, not an OCR-marked script or a guaranteed grade.

Use this model to study argument and evaluation, then write your own answer. Do not submit it as your own assessed work.

Individual-use digital edition | 10 November 2026

Argument plan

Can liberation theology use Marxist analysis without allowing Marxism to redefine the Christian gospel?

Thesis: Liberation theology can use Marx's diagnosis of alienation, exploitation and class power as a critical tool while grounding dignity and salvation in Christianity. However, selective borrowing is credible only when it confronts Marxism's wider assumptions, tests proposed political means and allows the gospel to criticise liberation movements as well as oppressive institutions.

1. Marxist analysis reveals structural causes of poverty that individual charity can miss.

Counter-argument: Its categories can reduce persons, belief and injustice to class relations.

Interim judgement: The analysis is valuable as a revisable diagnosis rather than a complete account of humanity.

2. Gutiérrez connects liberation, praxis and priority for the poor to Christian salvation.

Counter-argument: Political success can displace grace, spiritual freedom and universal love.

Interim judgement: Liberation must be integral and the poor treated as agents without being romanticised.

3. Critical borrowing can preserve theology's independence while making it socially effective.

Counter-argument: Analysis and ideology may be inseparable, and selective use may avoid Marx's hardest political conclusions.

Interim judgement: The synthesis succeeds only through explicit boundaries and practical accountability, not by labelling Marx a neutral tool.