

Test your knowledge and understanding: Wealth, welfare & poverty

Questions based on chapter 6 of *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives Student Handbook*

- 1** The view that individuals without the resources to maintain a healthy life can be said to be in poverty is based on which definition of poverty?
 - a** Absolute definition
 - b** Relative definition
 - c** Multiple deprivation
 - d** Social exclusion
- 2** In which year did Rowntree's first study of poverty take place?
 - a** 1891
 - b** 1901
 - c** 1911
 - d** 1921
- 3** What is meant by the budget standards approach to measuring poverty?
 - a** Constructing a poverty line which is applicable to all societies
 - b** Measuring how effectively households manage their budgets
 - c** Using an absolute definition of poverty to measure it
 - d** Measuring poverty by calculating the cost of purchases necessary to maintain a satisfactory minimum standard of living
- 4** Three of the following are criticisms of Mack & Lansley's and Bradshaw *et al's* research. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** Their research only measures absolute poverty
 - b** Their research does not take into account the quality of items in their deprivation index
 - c** Different definitions of poverty would have produced very different results
 - d** The public chose the items to be included in the deprivation index but the list from which they chose reflected the researchers' values
- 5** Which one of the following is not associated with the culture of poverty?
 - a** Feeling of marginalization
 - b** High rate of family breakdown
 - c** Lack of participation in social institutions
 - d** Situational constraints
- 6** Which one of the following can be considered to be a criticism of the idea of 'social exclusion'?
 - a** It does not look beyond poverty as a simple lack of material resources
 - b** It is difficult to define and measure with any accuracy
 - c** It does not make us consider both the excluded and those who do the excluding
 - d** It does not make policy-makers aware of the need to change social and economic structures
- 7** Three of the following are associated with a high risk of poverty. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** Unemployment
 - b** Retirement
 - c** Lone parenthood
 - d** Employment
- 8** Three of the following are reasons why women are more likely to be in poverty than men. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** They are more likely to be lone parents
 - b** They are more likely to work part-time
 - c** They are more likely to have low educational qualifications
 - d** They are more likely to be unpaid carers
- 9** Which one of the following has been responsible for eradicating most poverty in Britain, according to the New Right?
 - a** The welfare state
 - b** Rising living standards
 - c** Means-tested benefits
 - d** The culture of poverty
- 10** Which two of the following does Murray put forward as evidence for the existence of an underclass in Britain?
 - a** Rising illegitimacy rate
 - b** Rising standard of living
 - c** Rising crime rate
 - d** Rising level of welfare payments
- 11** Which of the following is not a New Labour policy initiative?
 - a** Education Action Zones
 - b** Welfare to Work
 - c** Action start
 - d** Tax credits
- 12** Which one of the following statements are conflict theorists likely to agree with?
 - a** Poverty is the result of individual inadequacy
 - b** The welfare state has done much to eliminate poverty
 - c** The welfare state has done very little to redistribute resources from the wealthy to the poor
 - d** Poverty is the result of a culture of poverty
- 13** Three of the following are reasons why changes in the labour market have made people in Britain more vulnerable to poverty. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** The decline in manufacturing industry
 - b** Growth of the service sector
 - c** Increases in regional unemployment
 - d** The decline of trade unionism
- 14** Marxists might well agree with three of the following statements. Which is the odd one out?
 - a** The poor are merely the most disadvantaged section of the working class
 - b** Low wages help to reduce wage demands in capitalist societies
 - c** The welfare state 'contains' the demands of the working class
 - d** It is possible for the welfare state to eliminate poverty

- 15** Which two of the following statements would the New Right be likely to agree with?
- Universal welfare benefits help create a dependency culture
 - Means-tested benefits are socially divisive
 - Reducing welfare expenditure makes the economy more dynamic and benefits the poor, as wealth will 'trickle down'
 - The welfare state should redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor
- 16** Which of the following is the most important source of income in Britain?
- Self-employment
 - Pensions
 - Investments
 - Wages and salaries
- 16** Income before tax including the value of state benefits but not state services is known as:
- Original income
 - Gross income
 - Disposable income
 - Final income
- 17** Between 1979 and 1997 income became more unequally distributed. Which of the following is a reason for this?
- The wages of the well-paid increased more rapidly than the average
 - Welfare benefits were cut
 - Income tax was cut
 - Targets were introduced for poverty reduction
- 18** What type of sociologist sees ownership of shares and businesses as crucial to explaining how society works?
- Feminists
 - Marxists
 - The New Right
 - Functionalists
- 19** Davis & Moore see the unequal distribution of wealth and income as:
- Harmful to society
 - Inevitable and desirable
 - A result of state intervention in the economy
 - A temporary state that will be ended with a revolution
- 20** Max Weber calls the supply and demand for a particular type of labour:
- Status situation
 - Bargaining position
 - Market situation
 - Class
- 21** Which perspective is most critical of spending money on the welfare state?
- Market liberal
 - Marxist
 - Feminist
 - Social democrat
- 22** Care provided by friends and family is known as the:
- voluntary sector
 - informal sector
 - private sector
 - relative sector
- 23** Universal benefits and services are most supported by which of the following?
- Social democrats
 - Market liberals
 - Feminists
 - Marxists
- 24** Which of the following is a means-tested welfare benefit?
- Healthcare
 - State pensions
 - Child Benefit
 - Income Support
- 25** In what year was the Beveridge Report published?
- 1933
 - 1942
 - 1949
 - 1957
- 26** Which of the following is *not* one of the five giants Beveridge aimed to defeat?
- Idleness
 - Want
 - Squalor
 - Inequality
- 27** New Labour's Third Way is usually seen as combining which perspectives on welfare?
- Marxist and feminist
 - Social democratic and market liberal
 - Beveridge and feminist
 - Marxist and market liberal
- 28** Which of the following phrases is associated with New Labour welfare policies?
- There is no such thing as society
 - A hand up not a handout
 - Something for something
 - Responsibility not rights
- 29** Which of the following groups experiences higher than average levels of poverty?
- White people
 - The employed
 - Women
 - White collar workers
- 30** An advantage of tax credits is:
- They are cheap to administer
 - They help avoid creating a poverty trap
 - They do not have to be claimed
 - They only give help to the poor

Answers

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|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 | <i>a</i> | 16 | <i>d</i> |
| 2 | <i>b</i> | 17 | <i>d</i> |
| 3 | <i>d</i> | 18 | <i>b</i> |
| 4 | <i>a</i> | 19 | <i>b</i> |
| 5 | <i>d</i> | 20 | <i>c</i> |
| 6 | <i>b</i> | 21 | <i>a</i> |
| 7 | <i>d</i> | 22 | <i>b</i> |
| 8 | <i>c</i> | 23 | <i>a</i> |
| 9 | <i>b</i> | 24 | <i>d</i> |
| 10 | <i>a and c</i> | 25 | <i>b</i> |
| 11 | <i>c</i> | 26 | <i>d</i> |
| 12 | <i>c</i> | 27 | <i>b</i> |
| 13 | <i>b</i> | 28 | <i>b</i> |
| 14 | <i>d</i> | 29 | <i>c</i> |
| 15 | <i>a and c</i> | 30 | <i>b</i> |