8.1 Work, Poverty and Welfare: Explanations and Measurement of Poverty: 10-minute Pack

AQA 7192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more. Spend about 10 minutes on the whole paper.

1 Define what Weberian sociologists mean by 'life chances' and explain briefly how this concept helps to explain poverty in a contemporary society like the UK.

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Identify and explain one piece of evidence a sociologist might seek to test Murray's underclass thesis about areas of persistent poverty.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 State one strength of using a multidimensional poverty measure like Townsend's index rather than only an income threshold, in sociological research about poverty in the UK.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Define what sociologists mean by 'relative poverty' when measuring poverty within a nation such as the UK.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 8.1 Work, Poverty and Welfare: Explanations and Measurement of Poverty: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

definition: identifies life chances as opportunities individuals have to improve their quality of life and access resources **B1**

applies the concept to poverty, e.g. limited life chances due to low status, poor education or weak marketable skills reduce access to well-paid jobs **B1**

development, e.g. this explains poverty as a result of unequal distribution of economic and social resources rather than individual moral failure **B1**

Answer: Life chances are the opportunities individuals have to improve their quality of life and access resources; limited life chances, through low status, poor education or weak marketable skills, reduce access to well-paid jobs and so help explain poverty as a result of unequal distribution of economic and social resources.

Question 2

identifies suitable evidence, e.g. longitudinal data showing intergenerational unemployment and welfare dependence in certain areas **B1**

explains why it is relevant, e.g. such evidence would support or challenge the claim that poverty and family breakdown persist across generations **B1**

Answer: A sociologist could use longitudinal data tracking families to see if unemployment and welfare dependence persist across generations in certain areas; this would test Murray's claim that an underclass culture perpetuates poverty across generations.

Question 3

identifies a genuine strength, e.g. captures different aspects of living standards and social participation **B1**

brief development, e.g. this provides a fuller picture of exclusion than income alone **B1**

Answer: A strength is that a multidimensional measure captures different aspects of living standards and social participation, providing a fuller picture of exclusion than income alone.

Question 4

identifies that relative poverty compares someone's resources to the standard of living in their society, not a fixed minimum **B1**

development, e.g. often operationalised as having income below a percentage of median income, for example below 60% of median household income **B1**

Answer: Relative poverty compares a person or household's resources to the standard of living in their society; it is often measured as having income below a set percentage of median household income, for example below 60% of the median.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk