8.1 Work, Poverty and Welfare: Explanations and Measurement of Poverty: Test Pack

AQA 7192 · about 20 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more. Spend about 20 minutes on the whole paper.

1 Which one of the following best describes an absolute definition of poverty in the context of policy debates about living standards in the UK?

- ☐ A) Poverty defined relative to the average income in a society
- ☐ B) Poverty defined by a fixed minimum such as inability to afford basic food and shelter
- ☐ C) Poverty defined by survey respondents saying they feel poor
- ☐ D) Poverty defined by the number of people receiving welfare benefits

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain two ways the feminisation of poverty can be observed in adult households in contemporary Britain.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Compare briefly one New Right explanation and one Marxist explanation for why unemployment and poverty persist in some communities.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Identify and explain one strength of using an income-threshold measure, such as 60% of median household income, to monitor poverty in the UK.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Describe one way in which New Right explanations, such as Murray's underclass thesis or culture of dependency, explain persistent poverty in a community.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.1 Work, Poverty and Welfare: Explanations and Measurement of Poverty: Test Pack

Question 1

B (poverty defined by a fixed minimum such as inability to afford basic food and shelter) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies first way, e.g. higher rates of poverty among single parent households, which are often headed by women **B1**

develops first way, e.g. single mothers face low pay, childcare costs and part-time work, increasing poverty risk **B1**

identifies second way, e.g. older women have higher poverty risk in retirement due to interrupted careers and lower pension contributions **B1**

develops second way, e.g. career breaks for caring reduce lifetime earnings and pension entitlements **B1**

Answer: The feminisation of poverty is seen in higher poverty among female-headed single parent households, where childcare costs and low pay increase risk, and among older women in retirement, who often have lower pensions after interrupted careers for caring responsibilities.

Question 3

identifies New Right view, e.g. welfare dependency and breakdown of family norms lead to poverty **B1**

develops New Right point, e.g. dependency reduces incentive to work and creates an underclass culture **B1**

identifies Marxist view, e.g. structural factors of capitalism such as deindustrialisation and exploitation produce unemployment **B1**

develops Marxist point, e.g. economic restructuring and lack of investment create structural joblessness beyond individual control **B1**

Answer: The New Right blames welfare dependency and breakdown of family norms, arguing these reduce incentives to work and create an underclass culture; Marxists explain persistent poverty structurally, pointing to capitalist processes like deindustrialisation and lack of investment that create joblessness beyond individuals control.

Question 4

identifies a strength, e.g. it is easy to compare over time and between groups **B1**

explains the strength, e.g. a clear numerical cutoff allows policymakers and researchers to track changes and target policies **B1**

Answer: A strength is that an income-threshold measure allows easy comparison over time and between groups, because a clear numerical cutoff facilitates monitoring and policy targeting.

Question 5

identifies a relevant New Right claim, e.g. that long-term welfare dependency weakens work ethic and family stability **B1**

develops the claim, e.g. Murray argued that lack of adult role models, absent fathers and reliance on benefits create an underclass culture **B1**

further development, e.g. this culture then perpetuates unemployment and anti-social behaviour across generations **B1**

Answer: The New Right argues that long-term welfare dependency weakens work ethic and family stability; Murray suggested absent fathers and reliance on benefits create an underclass culture that perpetuates unemployment and anti-social behaviour across generations.

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