6.3 Poverty and Wealth: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show your understanding by using sociological vocabulary and, where asked, your own examples.

1 For each statement below, state which approach or thinker it best matches.

(a) A household cannot afford items and activities considered normal in society, such as an annual holiday. **(1)**

(b) A household's income falls below the amount needed for basic physical survival. **(1)**

(c) Poverty results mainly from a set of values and behaviours passed on within a group. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 3 marks)

2 Give one reason sociologists give for why poverty can be difficult to measure precisely.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Explain two reasons some sociologists are cautious about the underclass thesis as an explanation of poverty.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.3 Poverty and Wealth: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) relative poverty / Townsend **B1**

(a) Answer: Relative poverty (Townsend)

(b) absolute poverty / Rowntree **B1**

(b) Answer: Absolute poverty (Rowntree)

(c) underclass thesis / Murray (a contested view) **B1**

(c) Answer: Underclass thesis (Murray) - a contested view

Question 2

identifies a genuine reason, e.g. sociologists disagree over whether poverty should be measured in absolute or relative terms, which produces different results **B1**

development, e.g. or that household circumstances, such as unpaid caring responsibilities, can affect real living standards in ways income figures alone do not capture **B1**

Answer: Sociologists disagree over whether poverty should be measured in absolute or relative terms, and household circumstances such as unpaid caring responsibilities can affect real living standards beyond income figures alone.

Question 3

identifies one reason, e.g. it risks presenting poverty as caused by the choices or culture of people experiencing it, when much of the evidence points to structural causes such as low pay and insecure work **B1**

development **B1**

identifies a second, different reason, e.g. critics argue there is limited clear evidence for a distinct, separate 'underclass culture', and that people move in and out of poverty over time rather than remaining a fixed group **B1**

development **B1**

Answer: The underclass thesis risks presenting poverty as caused by the choices or culture of the poor, when evidence points to structural causes; critics also argue there is limited clear evidence for a distinct 'underclass culture', and people move in and out of poverty over time.

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