6.9 Explanations of and Solutions to Poverty: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. In extended questions write full sentences. Spend about 10 minutes on this pack.

1 Identify one policy or approach that represents redistribution to reduce poverty and state briefly how it redistributes resources.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Item B: A local council report shows that in District X 40 percent of working-age adults are in low-paid, insecure jobs, while 18 percent are long-term unemployed. The council is deciding whether to expand local training and childcare subsidies, or to campaign for higher national minimum wages. Using Item B and your own knowledge, explain two ways these kinds of structural measures could reduce poverty in District X.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Describe one problem that critics say is caused by means-tested benefits in the UK when trying to reduce poverty.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.9 Explanations of and Solutions to Poverty: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a redistribution policy, e.g. progressive taxation and increased spending on welfare services	**B1**
brief development, e.g. progressive taxes take a higher proportion from the better off and finance benefits or services for the less well off	**B1**

Answer: Progressive taxation combined with increased spending on welfare and public services is redistribution, since higher earners pay proportionally more tax which is then used to fund benefits and services for lower income groups.

Question 2

identifies one way, e.g. local training could improve skills and help people move into higher paid work	**B1**
explains how this reduces poverty, e.g. higher skills increase employability and wages, reducing reliance on benefits	**B1**
identifies a second way, e.g. higher national minimum wages would raise incomes for low-paid workers	**B1**
explains how this reduces poverty, e.g. increasing take-home pay reduces in-work poverty and may reduce long-term dependence on benefits	**B1**

Answer: Local training could improve residents skills and employability so they move into better-paid jobs, reducing reliance on benefits; higher national minimum wages would raise incomes for currently low-paid, insecure workers, reducing in-work poverty and pressure on local services.

Question 3

identifies a problem, e.g. means-testing can create a poverty trap where people lose more in benefits than they gain from low-paid work	**B1**
development, e.g. benefit withdrawal rates can make moving into paid work financially unattractive	**B1**
further development, e.g. means-testing can stigmatise recipients and create administrative complexity that excludes some in need	**B1**

Answer: One problem is the poverty trap, where means-tested benefit withdrawal rates mean people can lose more in benefits than they gain from low-paid work, making employment financially unattractive; means-testing can also stigmatise recipients and create administrative barriers.

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