# 6.9 Explanations of and Solutions to Poverty: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions. In extended questions write full sentences. Spend about 15 minutes on this pack.**

**1** Which sociological explanation links poverty to low pay, unemployment and the structure of the economy in the UK?

- ☐ A) Cultural explanation
- ☐ B) Interactionist explanation
- ☐ C) Structural explanation
- ☐ D) Labeling explanation

**(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)**

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**2** Describe one advantage of universal benefits, such as Child Benefit, when used as a policy to reduce poverty among families with children in the UK.

**(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)**

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**3** Outline one way Marxist critics challenge the cultural explanation of poverty in contemporary UK society.

**(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)**


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**4** State one policy that is an example of a universal benefit in the UK and name its main purpose in reducing hardship.

**(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)**

**5** Explain the New Right argument that generous welfare benefits can create a 'dependency culture' and thereby help perpetuate poverty in society.

**(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 6.9 Explanations of and Solutions to Poverty: Test Pack

## Question 1

C (Structural explanation) **B1**

**Answer: C**

## Question 2

identifies an advantage, e.g. universality avoids stigma since everyone in the eligible group receives it **B1**

development, e.g. universality can encourage take-up and simpler administration **B1**

further development, e.g. universal benefits provide stable support that can prevent families slipping into deeper poverty **B1**

**Answer: An advantage is universality avoids stigma because all eligible families receive the payment, encouraging take-up and simplifying administration; universal benefits also provide stable support that can prevent families slipping into deeper poverty.**

## Question 3

identifies a Marxist criticism, e.g. Marxists argue poverty is caused by capitalism and exploitation rather than the poor's culture **B1**

development, e.g. they point to low wages, unemployment and the reserve army of labour as structural causes that cultural explanations ignore **B1**

**Answer: A Marxist critic would say poverty results from capitalism and exploitation, for example through low wages and unemployment, and that cultural explanations wrongly blame the poor instead of examining economic structures.**

## Question 4

identifies a universal benefit, e.g. Child Benefit **B1**

brief development, e.g. to provide financial support for families with children regardless of income **B1**

**Answer: An example is Child Benefit, which provides financial support to families with children regardless of household income.**

## Question 5

identifies the New Right claim that high or long-term benefits reduce incentives to work **B1**

development, e.g. people may come to rely on benefits rather than seeking employment **B1**

further development, e.g. this can be argued to pass dependency across generations as children learn reliance rather than work incentives **B1**

links this argument to the claim that benefits can thus help to perpetuate poverty rather than solve it **B1**

**Answer: The New Right argue that high or long-term welfare benefits reduce incentives to work, so people may rely on benefits instead of seeking employment; they claim this reliance can be transmitted across generations and therefore help to perpetuate poverty rather than solve it.**


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