

Inequality Quiz

Here is a quiz to find out about issues of inequalities globally and within Europe.

TAGS

Inequality

Test your knowledge of inequality with this quiz

1. Which is true?

- a) 5% of the richest people now have more wealth than the remaining 95% of the population in the world
- b) 10% of the richest people now have more wealth than the rest 90% of the population in the world
- c) 1% of the richest people now have more wealth than the rest 99% of the population in the world
- d) 7% of the richest people now have more wealth than the rest 93% of the population in the world

Answer: c

In 2016, 62 people own as much wealth as half the world's population. Their combined wealth is US\$1.76 trillion. Does this surprise you? Does it sound fair?

Source: <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/an-economy-for-the-1-how-privilege-and-power-in-the-economy-drive-extreme-inequ-592643>

2. When it comes to how much wealth different people have compared to each other, do you think that most societies around the world are:

- a) Very equal?
- b) Quite equal?
- c) A little unequal?
- d) Very unequal?

Answer: c or d

Although it varies quite a lot between different countries, most societies are not very equal – there are some people with a lot more money, better health and better education than many others. This is called **inequality**. Some inequality is expected in society as people are generally paid different amounts for different jobs. However, over the last 15-20 years the gap between the richest and poorest has been growing hugely, as Question 1 illustrates.

3. Which famous person said that growing inequality was a major problem for the world?

- a) The Secretary General of the United Nations (Ban Ki-moon)
- b) Barack Obama
- c) Pope Francis
- d) The President of the World Bank (Jim Yong Kim)

Answer: All are correct

All of the people listed have talked about the huge issue of growing global inequality and the problems it causes. This illustrates how serious the issue is being taken now across the globe. You can read their statements using the links below.

[Ban Ki Moon](#)

[Barack Obama](#)

[Pope Francis](#)

[Jim Yong Kim](#)

4. Which is true? A society with high inequality would mean...

- a) Some people have a lot of money, and a lot of people have very little
- b) Some people are much healthier, and a lot of people are much less healthy
- c) Some areas are much more dangerous to live in, while other areas are very safe
- d) Some people could make life choices easily, but a lot of others would have very few life choices

Answer: All true

All are true, because inequality – meaning a society being unequal – can be seen in lots of ways. Often we talk about the amount of money or wealth people have, but inequality can also be to do with how healthy people are, how much education they have, crime rates, if people can be involved politically in society and how easy they find it to make choices in life. Therefore, inequality can have lots of dimensions.

5. Which is true? High inequality is something which...

- a) Mainly happens in poorer/less developed countries
- b) Is not something that can be controlled
- c) Is something that can be reduced by government actions
- d) Increases in society over time

Answer: c

Most of these are false statements. High inequality can happen anywhere. The USA is a rich country, but has quite high levels of inequality whereas Sweden is also rich, but has quite low levels of inequality. Nepal is a poor country but has quite low inequality but Honduras, also a poor country has very high inequality. Historically inequality has gone up and down over time. That means that inequality is not inevitable, and that people – usually through their government, can (and have) done things to reduce it. Therefore (c) is true.

To see the Gini index for different countries [use this link](#).

6. “A more unequal society is bad for people who have a lot less, but good for people who have a lot more.” Do you think this is true or false?
- a) True
 - b) False

Answer: b

You might think that if you were rich it would be better to be in a more unequal society, as you could get more wealth than most other people. However an important study on inequality argued that actually a more unequal society is worse for *everyone* in it, including richer people. A book called [Spirit Level](#) looked at things like how healthy people were and how much crime there was in societies that were more unequal and discovered that in more unequal societies these things were worse for everyone.

7. The richest half of the global population is responsible for which percentage of the world's carbon emissions?
- a) 10%
 - b) 25%
 - c) 70%
 - d) 90%

Answer: d

While the poorest people live in areas most vulnerable to climate change, the poorest half of the global population are responsible for only around 10% of total global emissions. The average footprint of the richest 1% globally could be as much as 175 times that of the poorest 10%.

Read more: [Oxfam's report "An Economy for the 1%"](#) and [UN Report "Inequalities exacerbate climate impacts on poor"](#).

8. Which of the following things do you think can help to reduce inequality?
- a) Taxes being higher for businesses and richer people
 - b) Having high quality, free education and healthcare available for everyone
 - c) Increasing wages for the lowest paid jobs
 - d) Giving support to poorer people – e.g. food credits

Answer: All of them

In fact all of these things can help reduce inequality. They help share or redistribute money from richer to poorer people, and ensure everyone has access to services which help them in life (like schools and hospitals). Countries like Brazil who have reduced inequality have used things like improving free education and healthcare for the poorest people , giving cash to poor families to buy enough food and increasing the ‘minimum wage’ – the amount lowest paid workers are paid.