**PREP2: Government Policy to reduce poverty and inequality**

**IF SOME OF THE ARTICLE LINKS DO NOT WORK, PLEASE COPY AND PASTE THEM INTO THE WEBSITE ADDRESS AND THEY WILL WORK**

**TIME TAKEN: 4.5 to 6 Hours DEADLINE: w/b 5th March 2018**

**INTRODUCTION**

There are many possible policies to reduce poverty and inequality in the UK. Here is a summary below –

1. **Redistribute income and wealth (taxes and benefits)**
   * Progressive .v. regressive taxation and income inequality?
   * Inheritance tax and wealth inequality?
   * Benefit Claimants: Vulnerable or Scroungers?
   * Conservative Universal Credit Scheme
   * Universal Basic Income Proposal
   * Benefits in Kind – Free healthcare, education etc.
2. **Government legislation (living wage, discrimination and trade union laws)**
   * National Minimum Wage and Living Wage
   * Maximum Wage / Wage Ratios
   * Discrimination Laws and other Measures
   * Trade Union Reform
3. **Government Initiatives**
   * Reducing unemployment
     + Removing barriers to work and improving mobility of labour
     + Macro stimulation of the economy to reduce unemployment
   * Targeting poverty

**COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TASKS**

**NEW LABOUR LEGACY**

**TASK 1** (New LAbour’s Legacy): From 1997 to 2010, New Labour tried to achieve a reduction in child poverty. Read these articles

* <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/6738>
* <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2012/jun/12/labours-effort-cut-child-poverty-exceptional>
* <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labours-record-on-poverty-in-tatters-1681047.html>

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| OVERVIEW (what did they do, when, how?) | SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF NEW LABOUR’S APPROACH |

**POVERTY TARGETS**

**TASK 2** (Child Poverty Act): Provide a brief overview of this piece of legislation using the link below *and at least two other sources* (which you need to find). Try and state some advantages and disadvantages of using legislation like this to reduce poverty?

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN05585>

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| OVERVIEW | ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES |

**MINIMUM WAGE:** National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage

**TASK 3:** Research the internet to provide a brief history of the National Miniimum Wage and the National Living Wage. Who brought in these pieces of legislation and when? Why were they controversial?

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**TASK 4:** Read the following articles and create arguments for and against increasing this Government regulation further

* <https://fullfact.org/economy/has-national-living-wage-reduced-inequality/?utm_source=content_page&utm_medium=related_content>
* <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/11503/labour-markets/effect-of-minimum-wage-on-adas/>
* <https://www.economicshelp.org/labour-markets/disadvantages-minimum-wages/>
* GOL – in the PREP folder there is a powerpoint with graphs and stats called ‘Minimum Wage Statistics’ (study this too and use the statistics to back up points you are making below briefly.

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| Advantages of increasing the Living Wage | Disadvantages of increasing the Living Wage |

**MAXIMUM WAGE**

**TASK 5: Read the following articles and watch the videos and explain what the maximum wage is and how it might work. Then provide advantages and disadvantages**

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-38570434>
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jan/10/jeremy-corbyn-calls-for-maximum-wage-law>
3. <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/1725/economics/maximum-wage-law/>
4. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/comment/jeremy-corbyns-maximum-wage-it-would-pose-some-problems-but-at-least-hes-heated-up-the-debate-a7520046.html>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dq9wxQ22MsE>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3CEoA73RGs>
7. <https://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2017/01/maximum-wage-corbyns-stupidest-idea-yet/>

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| Overview | |
| Advantages | Disadvantages |