**RWS #19: Inequality, Poverty and Government Policy**

**DUE FOR Monday 12th March 2018**

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Please complete a revision worksheet summarizing the work from the last two weeks. The work should be taking you* ***up to 2 hours*** *to complete and should consist of a 1 A4 double paged summary based on the questions below. Please print out a double sided version to be handed in and marked on the date above (emails will not be accepted so make sure you are printing off your sheet before the lesson).*

*Remember to use all of the space over your two sides of A4 and make sure the ‘margins’ in Word are put as ‘narrow’. Feel free to reduce the size of the font if you are running out of space but nothing less than size 10. A better way to reduce would be to reread what you have written and try to be more succinct; it must fit onto two sides of A4 only!*

*You should be reading and using all the compulsory resources below (remember you will have already read an awful lot of these for homework and in class but there are a few extras I want you to read.*

*This revision worksheet should be taking you 2.5 hours…I suggest you spend 45 minutes writing up all your notes from class into a rough draft. Then, spend the next hour reading any extra information or clarifying concepts if you do not understand them. Then use the final 45 minutes to edit the work, make it look pretty and print it off.*

*REMEMBER THAT IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PRINTER AT HOME YOU MUST FIND TIME BEFORE THE LESSON TO PRINT IT OFF AT COLLEGE*

*ALSO MAKE SURE THAT AS WELL AS STORING A COPY ON A MEMORY STICK, YOU ALSO EMAIL YOURSELF SO THERE CAN BE NO COMPUTER ISSUES WHEN IT COMES TO PRINTING OFF YOUR WORK*

**SOURCES:**

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| **Compulsory (must look at)**   * **All notes** from class & group discussions, PREP homework and any department handouts * **Powerpoint –** notes and ideas * **Course Textbook** for the Second Year (You can download this as an ebook or read it online): Pages 118-139 (skim through the pages)   + LINK 1: Click on this link - <https://www.dawsonera.com/abstract/9781471829864>   + LINK 2: If the link above does not work, goto the ILC page on GOL OR click on <https://online.godalming.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=37> . Click on DAWSONERA box and accept terms and * **Articles on GOL or LINKS TO ARTICLEs**   + Pro’s and Con’s of inequality: <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/3586/economics/pros-and-cons-of-inequality/>   + Wealth inequality in the UK: <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/5543/economics/wealth-inequality-in-the-uk/> | **Extension (optional reads if time – try to access at least one source)**   * Series of extra articles on poverty and inequality in the UK (on GOL under ‘extension resources’ folder   + “Inequality or Poverty” by Simon Wren-Lewis   + “London Inequality is Good”   + Minimum Wage Essay   + Measuring Inequality |

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Introduction: Should there be any intervention? Should we reduce Government Intervention? (1/4 side of A4)**

* Provide arguments for and against why inequality may be good and bad for an economy. You should be referring to key terms such as: ‘trickle down effect’, the ‘marginal propensity to consume’, the marginal utility of income

**Government Intervention 1: Redistributing income and wealth through Taxation and Benefits (3/4 side of A4)**

* What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving from a more regressive taxation scheme to a progressive taxation scheme in a bid to reduce poverty and inequality? (try to think of three clear points and back them up with arguments for and against). Useful terms to use are ‘trickle down effect’, ‘disincentive to work or invest’ etc.
* What are the pro’s and con’s to having a higher inheritance tax? (find out what it is at the moment and use the compulsory resources to help you.
* What are the advantages (successes) and disadvantages (failures) of universal credit? Conclusion?
* Conclusion – do you feel that the UK needs to change the way it redistributes income and wealth and reduces poverty through taxation and benefits? If you feel there does need to be a change, explain why and a possible plan forward. If you feel it does not need to change, then you must justify why everything is perfect! ☺ Remember to state your position, back it up and then explain why any arguments against your position are not valid….see me if still unsure of how to write effective conclusions.
* What is ‘Universal Basic Income’ or UBI and what are the advantages and disadvantages of such a piece of legislation?

**Government Intervention 2: Government Legislation (1/2 a side of A4)**

* Provide an overview of the history of the minimum or living wage
* Arguments for and against for increasing this wage further for reducing poverty and inequality. Conclusion – an opinion and justification.
* What is the ‘maximum wage’ proposed by Jeremy Corbyn? Evaluate the implementation of this policy (remember goods and bads with a conclusion)

**Government Intervention 3: Government Targets and Initiatives (1/2 side of A4)**

* Provide an overview of the Child Poverty Act and evaluate whether it has had an impact in reducing poverty
* Provide examples of MACRO demand side and supply side policies the UK Government could employ to reduce poverty (i.e. creating more employment and ensuring current workers are productive). Refer to class notes and powerpoint. Evaluate these policies above; why might they not be as successful?
* Conclusion – have these targets been a success and has the Government done enough to encourage people into work?