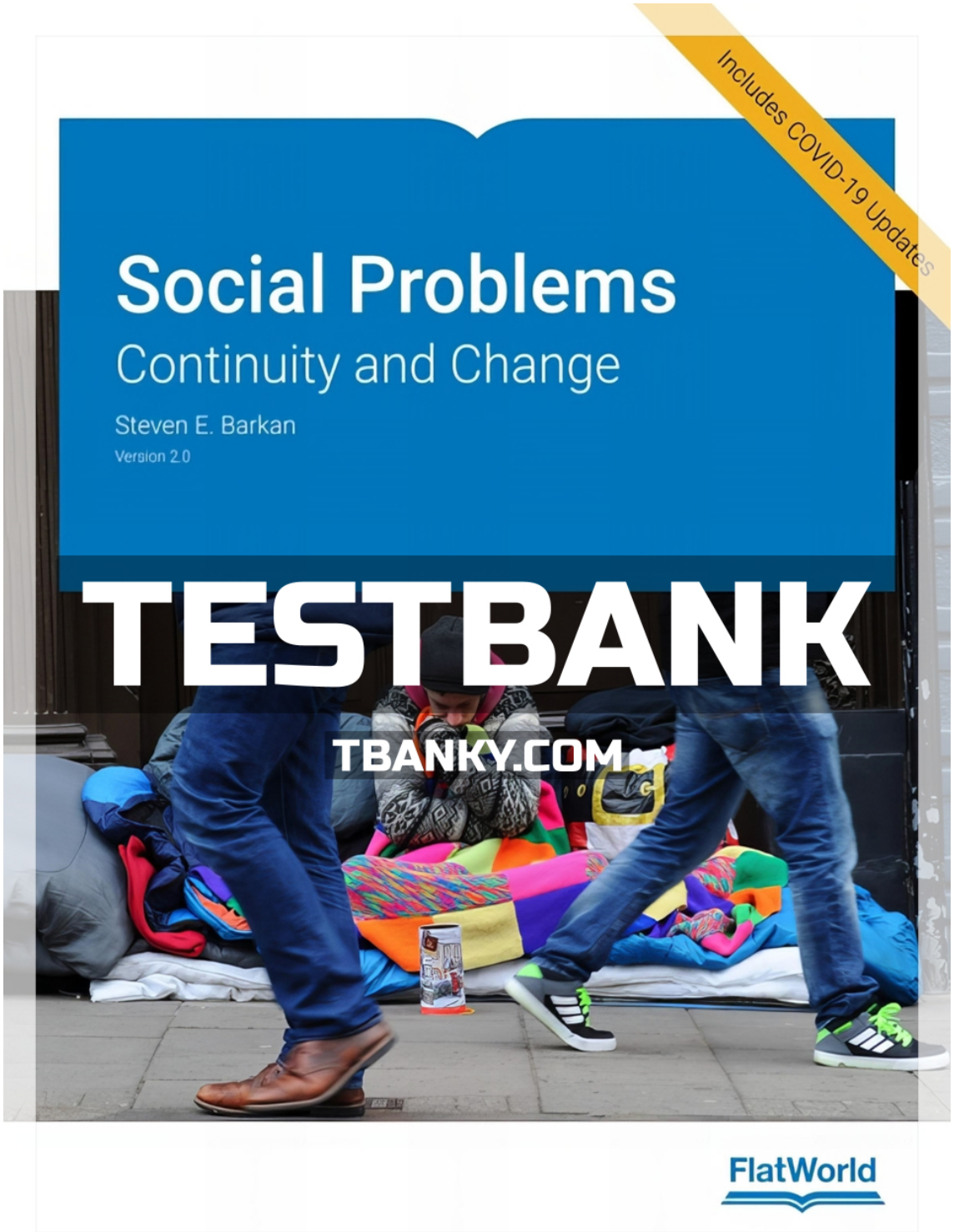
TEST BANK FOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS CONTINUITY AND CHANGE 2ND EDITION BARKAN ISBN 9781453392164



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Barkan's Social Problems v2.0 Test Item File

Chapter 2:Poverty

Multiple Choice

1. During what decade did the "War on Poverty" begin?
   a. 1930s
   b. 1950s
   c. 1960s
   d. 1980s
   e. 1990s
   Answer: c
   Level: medium
   Section: 2.1

2. When the poverty level was first calculated in the 1950's, what percent of a family's income was estimated to be spent on food?
   a. 73%
   b. 50
   c. 33
   d. 20
   e. 13
   Answer: c
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.1

3. Approximately, what percentages of US citizens were classified as poor by the US government as of 2017?
   a. 5%
   b. 12%
   c. 25%
   d. 35%
   e. 42%
   Answer: b
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.1

4. Using the "twice-poverty" threshold, approximately what percentage of US citizens can be considered poor?
   a. 20%
   b. 30%
   c. 40%
   d. 50%
   e. 60%
   Answer: b
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.1

5. Approximately what percentage of African Americans are poor?

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a. 10%
b. 21%
c. 37%
d. 47%
e. 57%
Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.1

6. Approximately what percentage of Latinxs are poor?
a. 7%
b. 18%
c. 27%
d. 44%
e. 55%
Answer: c
Level: hard
Section: 2.1

7. What percent of Americans in the 20–75-age range have either lived in or near poverty for one year?
a. 15%
b. 20
c. 25
d. 75
e. 95
Answer: d
Level: hard
Section: 2.1

8. What race has the most people living in poverty?
a. African American
b. Latinx
c. Asian
d. White
e. Native American
Answer: d
Level: hard
Section: 2.2

9. Approximately, what percentages of non-Latinx whites are officially in poverty?
a. 8–9 %
b. 12–13%
c. 19–20%
d. 25–26%
e. 30–31%
Answer: a
Level: hard
Section: 2.2

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10. What percentage of African American, Latinx, and Native American children live in low-income families?
    a. 5–10%
    b. 15–20%
    c. 28–30%
    d. 59–61%
    e. 75–79%
    Answer: d
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.2

11. Approximately what percentage of Americans living in poverty are either children or the elderly?
    a. 14%
    b. 44%
    c. 58%
    d. 67%
    e. 80%
    Answer: b
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.2

12. Which area of the United States has the highest poverty rate?
    a. North
    b. South
    c. West
    d. Midwest
    e. Northeast
    Answer: b
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.2

13. Which area of the United States has the lowest poverty rate?
    a. North
    b. South
    c. West
    d. Midwest
    e. Northeast
    Answer: e
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.2

14. Approximately what percentage of families headed by a woman are living in poverty?
    a. 12%
    b. 19%
    c. 25%
    d. 62%
    e. 89%
    Answer: c
    Level: hard

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Section: 2.2

15. Approximately what percentage of families headed by a married couple are living in poverty?
    a. 5%
    b. 12%
    c. 32%
    d. 44%
    e. 62%
    Answer: a
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.2

16. Which of the following groups has the lowest percentage of poor people?
    a. African American
    b. Native American
    c. Asian
    d. Latinx
    e. Non-Latinx whites
    Answer: e
    Level: medium
    Section: 2.2

17. Which region of the US has the second lowest percentage of poor people?
    a. North
    b. Northeast
    c. South
    d. West
    e. Midwest
    Answer: e
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.2

18. About what percent of the poor are under 18 years old?
    a. 2%
    b. 9%
    c. 32%
    d. 75%
    e. 90%
    Answer: c
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.2

19. One theory about the poor asserts that poor people have beliefs and practices that doom them to continued poverty. What is another name for this theory?
    a. culture of mediocrity
    b. culture of poverty
    c. depression
    d. lethargy
    e. peer group pressure

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Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.3

20. The belief that society must compensate skilled workers more than non-skilled is primarily a part of which theory?
    a. Functionalist
    b. Symbolic Interaction
    c. Conflict
    d. a and c
    e. b and c
    Answer: a
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.3

21. Which of the following is an example of the functions of poverty?
    a. Poor people do work that others don't want to do.
    b. Programs for poor people provide good jobs for others.
    c. Poor people buy goods that others don't such as day-old bread.
    d. Poor people provide work for low-quality doctors and lawyers.
    e. All of the above
    Answer: e
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.3

22. The conflict theory of poverty is summed up as a battle of:
    a. haves and have nots
    b. middle class v. lower class
    c. upper v. middle class
    d. men v. women
    e. Europeans v. non-Europeans
    Answer: a
    Level: medium
    Section: 2.3

23. Which movie about a prostitute is cited as an example of Symbolic Interactionism?
    a. Lolita
    b. Pretty Woman
    c. Ivanhoe
    d. Legally Blond
    e. Woodstock
    Answer: b
    Level: medium
    Section: 2.3

24. Another name for the individualistic explanation for poverty is?
    a. Holier than Thou
    b. IQ Theory
    c. Blame the Victim
    d. Might makes Right

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e. The Golden Rule
Answer: c
Level: hard
Section: 2.3

25. The structural explanation of poverty blames what type of discrimination?
    a. racial
    b. ethnic
    c. gender
    d. age
    e. All of the above
    Answer: e
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.3

26. Approximately how many people are in US prisons?
    a. 100,000
    b. 500,000
    c. 2 million
    d. 6 million
    e. 20 million
    Answer: c
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.3

27. Why is there less poverty in other western nations?
    a. stronger unions
    b. higher minimum wage
    c. higher social expenditures
    d. higher housing allowances
    e. All of the above
    Answer: e
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.3

28. Adults who were poor in childhood are more likely to do which of the following?
    a. complete fewer years of school
    b. receive more in food stamps
    c. have poor health
    d. have been arrested
    e. All of the above
    Answer: e
    Level: medium
    Section: 2.4

29. Emerging research shows that poverty affects cognitive abilities due to the increase in which of the following?
    a. ill health
    b. obesity
    c. accidents

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d. stress
e. parental abuse
Answer: d
Level: hard
Section: 2.4

30. According to the text, which of the following is a physical problem that results from high levels of stress?
a. diabetes
b. high blood pressure
c. blindness
d. cancer
e. asthma
Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.4

31. In Britain, the child poverty rate fell from what percent to what percent?
a. 8 to 4
b. 11 to 4
c. 30 to 12
d. 53 to 18
e. 60 to 40
Answer: c
Level: hard
Section: 2.4

32. How long is maternity leave in Britain?
a. 0 months
b. 1 month
c. 3 months
d. 9 months
e. 1 year
Answer: d
Level: hard
Section: 2.4

33. Many poor families spend more than what percent on their rent?
a. 10%
b. 20%
c. 25%
d. 50%
e. 80%
Answer: d
Level: hard
Section: 2.4

34. COVID-19 influenced poverty in many ways. Which of the following is NOT one of those ways?
a. Hunger worsened in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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b. Low-income Americans contracted and died from COVID-19 at higher rates than wealthier Americans.
c. Many more jobs were created during the pandemic in order to combat the virus, thus lowering unemployment rates.
d. The virus led to an increase in poverty rates.
e. Because of the types of jobs they work in and the often-crowded living conditions, poor people are generally at higher risk for illnesses like COVID-19.

Answer: c
Level: easy
Section: 2.4

35. Half the people in the world have below what level of income?
a. $700
b. $3,000
c. $14,000
d. $17,000
e. $22,000

Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.5

36. The top 20% of the world's population has what percent of the income?
a. 10%
b. 20%
c. 75%
d. 95%
e. 100%

Answer: c
Level: hard
Section: 2.5

37. How is GDP per capita calculated?
a. total personal income divided by total population
b. the value of goods and services divided by population
c. the value of goods and services divided by population over 18 years old
d. population divided by person wealth
e. wealth divided by population

Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.5

38. Which of the following are influences of poverty, based on modernization theory?
a. beliefs
b. values
c. practices
d. culture
e. All of the above

Answer: e
Level: hard
Section: 2.5

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39. Which of the following is NOT an example of dependency theory?
    a. Europeans stole poor nations resources.
    b. Europeans enslaved the poor nations people.
    c. Wealthy nations now sell their goods to poor nations and create debt in poor countries.
    d. Wealthy nations have settled their historical debts to poor countries.
    e. Wealthy nations installed governments in poor countries to help wealthy nations.
    Answer: d
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.5

40. Which of the following is an example of a former colony that is prospering?
    a. Taiwan
    b. Hong Kong
    c. South Africa
    d. Sudan
    e. Cuba
    Answer: b
    Level: medium
    Section: 2.5

41. Approximately what percentage of the global population lives in poor nations, according to the text?
    a. 3%
    b. 10%
    c. 20%
    d. 50%
    e. 75%
    Answer: d
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.5

42. On what continent is life expectancy the lowest?
    a. Europe
    b. North America
    c. Africa
    d. Australia
    e. South America
    Answer: c
    Level: easy
    Section: 2.5

43. Which continent has the highest percent of poor people?
    a. South America
    b. North America
    c. Asia
    d. Africa
    e. Australia
    Answer: d

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Level: easy
Section: 2.5

44. Life expectancy in poor nations (men and women) is how many years less than wealthy countries?
    a. 3–5
    b. 7–10
    c. 18–20
    d. 28–35
    e. 35–40
    Answer: c
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.5

45. The number of children who die before what age measures child mortality?
    a. 1
    b. 2
    c. 5
    d. 12
    e. 14
    Answer: c
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.5

46. What is the name of the United Nations organization that helps children around the world?
    a. UNESCO
    b. IMF
    c. UNICEF
    d. UNITED
    e. UNLIMITED
    Answer: c
    Level: medium
    Section: 2.5

47. When measuring literacy, at what age does the measurement begin?
    a. 6
    b. 7
    c. 9
    d. 15
    e. 24
    Answer: d
    Level: hard
    Section: 2.5

48. Which of the following does the modernist theory believe that Western Europeans did to get wealthy?
    a. future orientation
    b. rejected maintaining the status quo
    c. hard work

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d. new ways of thinking
e. All of the above
Answer: e
Level: hard
Section: 2.5

49. As a result of the War on Poverty, the U.S. poverty decreased most when?
a. 1950s and 1960s
b. 1960s and 1970s
c. 1980s
d. 1990s
e. 2000s and 2010s
Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.6

50. The US poverty rate has increased due to the US government cutting back on its commitment to poverty reduction AND what other major reason?
a. loss of educational opportunities
b. fewer affordable homes
c. loss of well-paying manufacturing jobs
d. increased population
e. decline in wealth
Answer: c
Level: hard
Section: 2.6

51. Which of the following is NOT included in the list of remedies to reduce poverty?
a. full employment
b. eliminate minimum wage
c. higher earned income credits
d. child care subsidies
e. affordable housing increase
Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.6

52. What is the main reason, according to many scholars, the US neglects its poor?
a. The US doesn't have resources.
b. It's the poor's own fault.
c. There is an ignorance about poverty.
d. Most Americans have never experienced poverty or near poverty.
e. All of the above
Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.6

53. For global poverty to be reduced, which of the following needs to be reduced according to the sociological approach?
a. ethnic inequality

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b. gender inequality
c. class inequality
d. All of the above
e. None of the above
Answer: d
Level: easy
Section: 2.6

54. In East Orange, NJ, 70% of children are eligible for free or reduced lunch during the school year. Yet, because of under-funding and the logistical difficulties of distributing meals in the summer, _____ of the children who qualified were not receiving meals in the summer of 2019.
a. half
b. one-third
c. one-fourth
d. one out of ten
e. six out of seven
Answer: e
Level: medium
Section: 2.0

55. Which of the following is a critique of the *individualistic explanation of poverty*?
a. The poor generally have different values than the middle-class and rich.
b. The poor who are employed often work more hours per week than the wealthy.
c. Rich parents tend to value education more than poor parents.
d. Most of poverty can be explained by cultural differences between the rich and poor.
e. All of the above
Answer: b
Level: hard
Section: 2.3

56. Poverty affects which of the following?
a. health
b. education
c. family life
d. crime and victimization
e. All of the above
Answer: e
Level: easy
Section: 2.4

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True /False

1. The poverty line is not adjusted for inflation annually.
Answer: False
Level: medium
Section: 2.1

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2. Fewer women are classified as in poverty than men.
   Answer: False
   Level: medium
   Section: 2.1

3. Poverty rates are higher in families with only one adult.
   Answer: True
   Level: easy
   Section: 2.2

4. The individualistic explanation of poverty believes poverty results from problems in society.
   Answer: False
   Level: easy
   Section: 2.3

5. Poor people smoke at higher rates than the wealthy.
   Answer: True
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.3

6. Poor people are less likely to be homeless.
   Answer: False
   Level: easy
   Section: 2.3

7. Most advocates of reducing poverty want to eliminate the minimum wage.
   Answer: False
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.6

8. Most Americans believe that the poor themselves are to blame for being poor.
   Answer: True
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.6

9. The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) shows that government aid programs are essential for keeping many people out of poverty.
   Answer: True
   Level: medium
   Section: 2.1

10. The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) is the official poverty measure in the United States.
    Answer: False
    Level: medium
    Section: 2.1

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Completion

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1. The high rate of female poverty is called the _____ of poverty.
   Answer: feminization
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.2

2. Ranking people on wealth or other resources is called _____.
   Answer: social stratification
   Level: hard
   Section: 2.3

3. Poor nations are the least _____ of all the world's countries.
   Answer: industrial
   Level: medium
   Section: 2.5

4. In 1997, AFDC was replaced with a new program called _____.
   Answer: TANF
   Level: medium
   Section: 2.5

Short Answer

1. Discuss some of the arguments why the poverty measurement is out of date and needs to be revised.

The original calculation estimated that food consumed one-third of the family budget, which is not the case today. Other parts of the family budget have risen such as utilities and mortgages. Also, the estimate of the number of people in poverty does not include benefits such as food stamps and tax credits. (Section 2.1)

2. Compare and contrast the two major theories about why there is poverty.

The individualistic view believes that the poor have habits that keep them poor such as being lazy and not looking for work. The structuralists' theory holds that discrimination, lack of opportunity and the ending of good jobs in the cities has resulted in an increase in poverty. (Section 2.3)

3. Discuss the living conditions for the people who live in the poor countries of the world.

Miserable conditions persist for the 1.4 billion people who live in the poor countries particularly in Asia and Africa. AIDS is found in large numbers of people, starvation is prevalent, sanitary conditions are deplorable and most medicines and simple toiletries are non-existent. (Section 2.5)

4. Discuss the two ways (education or protests) that sociologists believe are the best ways to address poverty in the US.

Some scholars believe that the American people need to be better educated on the true cost and causes of poverty. They should also be informed that the lack of good jobs at good wages is making very difficult for those with limited education levels to acquire a

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decent wage job. Another group of sociologists believe that widespread protests, similar to the 1930's and 1960's are necessary to bring about the required changes. (Section 2.6)

Essays

1. Discuss some of the arguments against the Functionalist Theory viewpoint regarding the issue of different compensation for different jobs.

Functionalists believe that some jobs are more important than others thus the pay scale should be higher for the more important positions. However, it does some that coal miners and teachers are more important to society than professional athletes or the sports agents, but the athletes and agents make considerably more. Indeed, many professional athletes make more the president of the United States. Functionalists also believe that everyone has an equal chance to move up the economic ladder and that the system is based on merit. However, this is not the case since some people never have the opportunity to develop their skills. (Section 2.3)

2. Discuss some of the physical and psychological effects of poverty.

Research shows that poor people have more health problems due their lack of access to health facilities. Nutritional problems can result in more health problems such as high blood pressure and higher infant mortality and even shorter life spans. These issues can result in learning problems in school and increase drop out rates and result in higher crime rates and incarcerations. Even the health care facilities that are available to the poor are crowded and are of lower quality than in richer neighborhoods. (Section 2.4)

3. Discuss the major differences in the two theories, Modernization Theory and Dependency Theory, regarding why there is poverty in the world.

Modernization theory asserts that the wealthy nations became wealthy because they developed beliefs, values and practices for industrialization, trade and economic growth. Poor nations have failed to develop similar values and thus remain poor. Dependency theory believes that the wealthy nations became wealthy through the colonization process, which exploited the poor nation's resources and prevented them from developing a professional and business class. (Section 2.5)

4. Discuss the welfare reform when the AFDC program was changed to TANF. Was it a success?

In 1997 AFDC was replaced with TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), which limited the time that can be spent collecting and also required recipients to work. Although the number of recipients went down, many believe that this if proof that the new system is a failure. First, for many families they have used up their time and no longer receive benefits, so it appears that fewer people are in need. Second, the job requirement is difficult to meet in high unemployment areas. Thus, while it looks like the numbers of recipients are down, it is an illusion. (Section 2.5)

5. Discuss some of the several proposals to reduce poverty in the United States.

There have been many proposals offered to decrease poverty. Establishing universal healthcare would help the poor stay healthy and not suffer many of the poverty-induced ailments that occur without proper health care. Better schools would help poor children better themselves and go on to college and better jobs. Better nutrition programs and training would also help the poor as well as child intervention programs with visitations

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by professionals to homes that ask for assistance. Finally, more jobs and better paying jobs would lower the numbers of people in poverty and save taxpayers money. (Section 2.6)

6. Discuss the plight of poor women in poor countries. What makes their situation so much worse than men?

First of all, women everywhere experience higher rates of poverty then men, a primary cause being the fact that women usually retain custody of any children involved which increases family costs and decreases family income. In poor countries, this situation worsens. When these women do acquire money, much of it goes for food, clothing and medicine, the essentials for the family. Little is left over for housing or investments in their futures such as education. Aid to men can often be wasted since frequently it is used to purchase goods such as alcohol and cigarettes. (Section 2.6)

7. How would providing Pell Grants for higher education reduce poverty?

In order to break the cycle of poverty, more of the poor need to get better paying jobs, particularly since the good paying manufacturing jobs have been outsourced to China and Mexico and other countries. Pell Grants are for tuition payments at colleges that are provided to the poor. By using these grants, the poor students would gain two valuable assets. First, a college diploma which would allow them to get a better paying job and second, a debt free future where they would be able to build their assets instead of using their money to get out of debt. These two assets would likely break the cycle of poverty. (Section 2.6)

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