

2016 Section C Q3

(a) (i) Define poverty

People are living in poverty if their income and resources are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living that is regarded as acceptable by society. An example includes not being able to heat your home, or going into debt to do so as most people in society can do this.

(ii) In relation to poverty explain each of the following:

Relative poverty – “At risk of poverty”. This means having an income that is below 60% of the median income. According to the journal.ie this is a weekly income of €218. Currently there are around 750,000 people living in poverty in Ireland.

Poverty line – A person is considered poor if either income or spending falls below some minimum level (poverty line) that represents the basic needs of people in each society. Examples include not being able to afford two strong pairs of shoes or unable to afford a meal with chicken or fish every second day.

Cycle of poverty – A cycle that perpetuates when children of people at risk of poverty are unable to escape being at risk of poverty themselves as adults. It can continue for generations. The effects of poverty e.g. education, can become the causes of poverty e.g. struggle to find a good job due to no education.

(iii) Discuss the social and economic reasons why poverty continues to exist in today’s society.

One parent families are more at risk of becoming poor than other types of families as they generally have a lower income. They may not be able to afford basic necessities like new clothes, only the bare minimum.

People with long term illnesses and disabilities are more at risk of poverty. They may be unable to work or need to pay for prescriptions that can result in very little money.

Unemployment and lack of education causes poverty in Ireland today. People who left school early or didn't attend third level college are less qualified for jobs therefore have a lower income that may result in poverty.

The cost of living in Ireland has increased which makes it more difficult for people to keep up paying rent, heating bills, new clothes etc. This results in people lacking necessities therefore poverty continues.

Many people are addicted to drugs and rely heavily on alcohol which causes them to spend a lot of their money buying these substances. They may also lose their jobs because of their unreliability. This results in poverty still existing today.

(iv) Name and give details of one voluntary organisation which works to alleviate poverty in Ireland.

The Simon Community is a voluntary organisation that works to alleviate poverty in Ireland by caring for those who are homeless. They provide emergency accommodation for those made homeless, tackle the root causes of homelessness as well as promote innovative responses. They help those experiencing and at risk of poverty.

(c)

(i) Describe how gender roles have changed within the contemporary family and outline the effect on family members.

Today it isn't unusual to have a father stay at home to rear the kids instead of the mother. This can be due to the high cost of childcare and the mother having the higher paid job. This can have a positive effect on the relationship between the Dad and the kids but the mother may feel a little envious of their relationship.

It is also normal nowadays to have both the couple working instead of only the male as it has been in previous years. This is because of the high cost of living but also because women can

continue their education today. This has a better effect on the females as they now feel equal to males with equal opportunity and responsibility.

Nowadays in homes the couple share all house chores because of females working outside the home too. This is more prominent in younger couples. This has a good effect on the couple as they share equal roles which leads to less conflict and shows a good example to kids.

(ii) Discuss the impact of dual earner families on family life with reference to role overload and role conflict.

Role overload can occur causing stress and anxiety when a person attempts to play too many roles at the same time. This is more apparent with women as generally they are the ones to deal with childcare – having to work, collect and drop kids to and from school, bring them to parties etc.

Role conflict may also occur when the expectations of one role e.g. working mother, clashes with the expectations of another role e.g. mother whose child is sick. This leads to stress and worry.

Stressful situations may arise between spouses as they may feel unsupported and doing most of the work at home.