

Grade 7 EMS Worksheet

Assessment Task: Influence of apartheid on poverty

The influence of apartheid on poverty (Group activity)

Read the information below and answer the questions that follow in your workbook.

Poverty and unemployment are serious problems in South Africa. About 23,5% of South Africans are unemployed. This means that there are many households without an income.

According to the *Income and Expenditure Survey 2005/2006* done by Statistics SA, the Presidency considers a person as living in poverty if the person earns less than R367 per month. Using this figure, findings were made that in 2007, 41% of South Africa's population were living below the poverty line. In other words, they cannot satisfy their basic needs, which are necessary for survival. This figure is down from the 1996 figure of 53%.

To help its citizens, Government has set the goal to halve poverty and unemployment by 2014. This is also part of the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations for 2015. In order to achieve this goal, Government pays childcare grants to needy children under the age of 14. Over 12 million children receive this grant. However, these grants only help to satisfy some of the most basic needs. The gap between rich and poor in South Africa is still widening.

Many black people who grew up during apartheid were denied opportunities to get skilled work. They also did not undergo proper education and training. They therefore lack the qualifications and skills that are needed in the job market. Proper education, training and skills development enable people to become good income earners. The better your qualifications or experience and skills, the better the income you will be able to earn. Now that we have a democracy in South Africa, everybody has a better opportunity to improve their skills and to fight poverty.

(Source: http://www.sairr.org.za/sairr-today/news_item.2008-11-28.9488661622/)

- a) Explain what it means to live below the poverty line. [2 marks]
- b) How does Government try to help households where the income is below the poverty line? [3 marks]
- c) "Poverty and unemployment in South Africa are partly due to the legacy of apartheid." Explain this statement. [3 marks]
- d) Consult a dictionary or an adult to find definitions for the following words: [3marks]
- (i) grant
 - (ii) democracy
 - (iii) skills development
- e) What does it mean to say that the gap between rich and poor is widening? [1 mark]

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f) How can a person ensure that he or she becomes a good income earner? [3 marks]

[Total: 15 marks]

Group assessment checklist

Criteria	Yes	No
Our group could explain what living below the poverty line means.		
Our group could explain how Government tries to help households where the income is below the poverty line.		
Our group could explain the statement about the legacy of apartheid.		
Our group could explain the meanings of the concepts given.		
Our group could explain what it means when the gap between rich and poor is widening.		
Everybody in our group showed sensitivity towards people suffering from poverty because of unequal opportunities.		
Our group could explain how to ensure that a person becomes a good income earner.		

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solution
1	15	<p>a) Living below the poverty line means to live on less than R367 per month, and therefore not being able to satisfy your basic needs. [2 marks]</p> <p>b) Government tries to help households where the income is under the poverty line by paying a childcare grant to beneficiaries, providing 'no-fee' schools where children can be educated for free, and providing feeding schemes at certain schools and free healthcare to children younger than 14 and to pensioners. [3 marks]</p> <p>b) Because of the apartheid policies where people were forced to live in segregation and blacks were only allowed to have menial jobs, they could not receive proper training and education. Therefore, many black people have fewer skills and can only get low-paying jobs. This means that they continue to live in poverty although South Africa is now a democracy. [3 marks]</p> <p>c) Consult a dictionary or an adult to find definitions for the following words: [3 marks]</p> <p>(i) grant: an allowance paid out to a beneficiary by the government</p> <p>(ii) democracy: government by the people through elected representation of all citizens</p> <p>(iii) skills development: training in order to develop abilities or to gain expertise in a certain field</p> <p>d) This means that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. [1 mark]</p> <p>e) A good income earner is someone with sufficient skills and education to get a good job. A person can also earn a good income by becoming an entrepreneur and being self-employed. Many South Africans become part of the informal business sector and work for themselves when they cannot find employment. [3 marks]</p>

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Appendix of Assessment Tools

Group assessment checklist

Criteria	Yes	No
Our group could explain what living below the poverty line means.		
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Our group could explain the statement about the legacy of apartheid.		
Our group could explain the meanings of the concepts given.		
Our group could explain what it means when the gap between rich and poor is widening.		
Everybody in our group showed sensitivity towards people suffering from poverty because of unequal opportunities.		
Our group could explain how to ensure that a person becomes a good income earner.		