SOCIALINEQUALITY



Louise Warwick-Booth

3rd edition



CONTENTS

List of case studies, learning tasks and tables About the author		xiii xviii
Introduction		1
1	WHAT IS SOCIAL INEQUALITY?	6
	Key learning outcomes	6
	Overview of the chapter	6
	Conceptualising social inequality	6
	Defining social inequality	7
	Measuring social inequality	9
	Measuring inequality	10
	Using poverty lines	10
	Examining incomes at country level	11
	Comparing economic growth	11
	Comparing development	12
	Looking at wages	12
	Measuring wealth	13
	Looking at social exclusion	13
	Ongoing debates	14
	Defining intersectionality	14
	The global context of inequality	16
	Patterns of contemporary inequality	17
	Subjective inequality	18
	Theoretical debates about inequality	19
	Why does inequality matter?	22
	Inequality results in negative outcomes	22
	Inequality generates political instability	22
	Brexit: the result of inequality?	23
	Inequality impacts upon the most vulnerable	23
	Inequality slows economic growth	24
	Inequality affects subjective wellbeing	24
	Why does inequality persist?	24
	Summary of key points	28 28
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection Further reading	29
2	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: SOCIAL CLASS	30
	Key learning outcomes	30
	Overview of the chapter	30

	What is social class and why is it important?	31
	Features of socially stratified societies	31
	Defining social class	32
	Measuring social class	34
	Contemporary social classes in the UK	36
	Chavs: the new underclass?	37
	Social mobility	40
	Why social mobility is hard to achieve in the UK	40
	Social mobility: the British great escape?	41
	The importance of class endures	42
	Explaining social class divisions	43
	Class position and inequality	45
	Social status	45
	Social status and the perpetuation of inequality	46
	Explaining differences in social status	48
	Social status, class and inequality	48
	Inequalities and stratification in contemporary society	49
	The stratification of life experience	50
	Summary of key points	51
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	52
	Further reading	52
3	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: EMPLOYMENT	53
	Key learning outcomes	53
	Overview of the chapter	53
	Employment as a social division	54
	Example inequalities in employment	55
	Unemployment	56
	Gender and work	58
	Work and age	60
	Social class, skills and work	61
	Work and ethnicity	62
	Work, health and disability	63
	Disabilities and inequalities in employment	65
	COVID-19 and work	66
	Intersectional inequalities associated with employment	68
	Explaining the inequalities associated with employment	69
	Summary of key points	72
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	72
	Further reading	73
4	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: YOUTH AND AGE	74
	Key learning outcomes	74
	Overview of the chapter	74
	Age	74

	Age as a social construction	75
	Changing patterns of youth and age	76
	Media concerns about the ageing population	76
	Ways in which an ageing society is positive	78
	Media concerns about youth	78
	The beginning of the lifecourse and inequalities	80
	Inequalities in childhood	80
	The end of the lifecourse and inequalities	81
	Inequalities in later life	81
	Early life chances and older-age vulnerability	81
	Challenges for millennials	83
	Brexit, age and geographical inequalities	85
	Adolescence, gender, transition and later-life outcomes	86
	University education and inequalities	87
	Social policy: promoting equality across the lifecourse?	89
	Explaining age-based divisions	90
	Ageism and associated inequalities	92
	Inequalities in end-of-life care	93
	Summary of key points	95
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	95
	Further reading	96
5	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: HEALTH AND DISABILITY	97
	Key learning outcomes	97
	Overview of the chapter	97
	Defining health inequalities	98
	Poverty and health inequalities	99
	The social gradient of health	100
		100
	Geographical variations within UK health outcomes The social model of health	100
	Disability as a social inequality	101
	Disability and health inequalities	102
	Social divisions and health outcomes	103
	Explaining health inequalities and their causes	104
	Lifestyle factors	105
	Psychosocial factors	103
		108
	Status syndrome Economic inequalities and health	108
		108
	Lay understandings	109
	Lay understandings and health inequalities	
	The importance of place for health	109 110
	Social determinants and health inequalities Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH)	
	Health service access, usage and inequalities	110 110
	Example inequalities in healthcare	111

	Globalisation as a cause of health inequalities	112
	Globalisation and its impact upon health	112
	Solutions to health inequalities	114
	Social policy approaches	114
	Policy to tackle health inequalities	115
	Educational approaches	117
	Community-level action	118
	Summary of key points	120
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	120
	Further reading	121
	Turner reading	121
6	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: GENDER	122
	Key learning outcomes	122
	Overview of the chapter	122
	What is gender?	123
	Defining gender	123
	Inequalities experienced by transgender individuals	125
	Gender, legislation and inequalities	127
	Gender inequalities	128
	Defining gender inequality	128
	Women and inequalities: the evidence	128
	Women and socio-economic outcomes	130
	Gender and power	132
	Women and powerlessness	132
	Women and sexual assault	132
	Women and COVID-19	133
	Women's empowerment	134
	Me Too	134
	Glasgow Equal Pay Campaign	134
	Explaining gender inequality	135
	What about men?	139
	Inequalities experienced by men	139
	Opportunities and benefits of gender equality for all	142
	Summary of key points	143
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	144
	Further reading	144
7	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: SEXUALITIES	146
/		
	Key learning outcomes	146
	Overview of the chapter	146
	What do we mean by sexualities?	147
	Defining sexualities	147
	The social construction of sexuality	147
	The sexualisation of culture	149
	Selling sex: stigma, taboo and inequalities	150
	Sexuality and institutionalised beterosexuality	1.52

	Labels and sexuality	153
	Inequalities associated with sexualities	155
	Example inequalities experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and	
	transgender groups	156
	Sexuality and inequalities in global policy approaches	158
	Intersectionality	160
	Explaining sexuality as a social division	162
	Summary of key points	166
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	166
	Further reading	166
8	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: ETHNICITY	168
	Key learning outcomes	168
	Overview of the chapter	168
	What is ethnicity?	168
	Contemporary examples of segregation	170
	Ethnic social stratification	173
	Ethnicity, social stratification and inequalities	173
	How can we measure ethnic inequalities?	174
	Ethnicity and inequalities: the evidence	176
	Example of contemporary racism – Islamophobia	176
	Politics and ethnic tolerance	179
	Health inequalities	179
	Racism and health inequalities	181
	Explaining ethnic inequalities	181
	Examples of institutional racism	185
	Social policy failures	186
	Social policy failures and ethnic inequalities	186
	Overview of sociological contributions	187
	Summary of key points	189
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	189
	Further reading	190
9	SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND INEQUALITY: MIGRATION	191
	Key learning outcomes	191
	Overview of the chapter	191
	What is migration?	192
	Defining and measuring migration	192
	Emigration	195
	Migration, refugees and panic	196
	Social policy, migration and inequalities	198
	Inequalities associated with migration	201
	Explaining the inequalities associated with migration	204
	Summary of key points	209
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	210
	Further reading	210

10	The state of the s	
	OF INEQUALITY	211
	Key learning outcomes	211
	Overview of the chapter	211
	Defining globalisation	212
	Defining globalisation	212
	Theorising globalisation	215
	Globalisation debated: is globalisation positive or negative?	216
	Globalisation and economics	218
	Globalisation, the global economy and inequalities	218
	Global trade: the power of transnational corporations	220
	Big Pharma and health inequalities	221
	Global consumerism	223
	Globalisation and consumption	223
	Examples of inequalities in consumption	224
	Global media	225
	Global politics: global governance	226
	Ecological unsustainability	227
	Inequalities and global rubbish	228
	Migration	230
	Global brain drain and inequalities	230
	Global inequality	231
	Has inequality increased or decreased?	232
	Is globalisation responsible for increased inequality?	232
	Why is globalisation disappointing in development and	
	economic terms?	232
	What is the future of global economic inequality?	233
	Summary of key points	234
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	235
	Further reading	235
11	THE GLOBAL SOCIAL POLICY ARENA AND INEQUALITY	237
	Key learning outcomes	237
	Overview of the chapter	237
	What is global governance?	238
	Studying global governance	238
	Why do we need global governance?	238
	Challenges for global policy makers	239
	Key global policy makers	242
	Positive global governance	245
	Global goals	245
	The focus on health	247
	Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008)	247
	The work of non-governmental organisations	248
	second as the second of the se	

	Negative global governance	249
	Policy directions	249
	Development and aid	250
	The myth of aid?	251
	Gender inequality	252
	Governance of those governing	253
	Increasing exclusion	253
	Global ecological problems	254
	Global economic issues	255
	Global resistance	255
	How does global governance relate to inequality?	257
	Austerity	258
	Questionable commitment to tackling inequalities?	258
	Summary of key points	259
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	260
	Further reading	260
12	SOCIAL POLICY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO INEQUALITY:	
	FACILITATOR OR POTENTIAL SOLUTION?	261
	Key learning outcomes	261
	Overview of the chapter	261
	Introduction to social policy	262
	Defining social policy	262
	Welfare policy	265
	Important debates in policy related to welfare	266
	How do ideological and political values impact on inequalities?	271
	Fiscal policy	272
	The impact of the 2008 financial crisis	274
	Austerity, fiscal policy and inequalities	275
	Debt advice	276
	Policy to encourage people to take up work	277
	Policy to encourage uptake of work: facilitator of inequality?	278
	Increasing social mobility through policy	279
	Policy barriers to the achievement of social mobility: facilitator	
	of inequality?	279
	Poverty and state approaches: social policy	279
	Policy approaches to tackle inequality: policy as a solution?	280
	Policy, capitalism and inequality	280
	Policy direction serving to facilitate inequalities	281
	Fiscal policy and financial regulation	283
	Fiscal policy and lack of regulation: facilitator of inequality?	283
	Summary of key points	284
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	285
	Further reading	285

CONTENTS

13	SOLUTIONS TO INEQUALITY: HOW DO WE CREATE A	200
	MORE EQUAL GLOBAL SOCIETY?	286
	Key learning outcomes	286
	Overview of the chapter	286
	What is the challenge?	287
	Is technology the answer?	288
	Is social policy the answer?	290
	The need for a new economic model and associated social policy approach	291
	Broader policy changes required to address inequalities	292
	Policies to achieve health for everyone	294
	Reform of global governance	295
	An alternative view of poverty?	296
	Limitations with current approaches to tackling poverty	296
	What about more development and growth?	299
	A fairer, better and different type of economic growth	300
	What does more inclusive development look like?	301
	Creating greater equality requires ideological change	301
	Can we all live a good life within the limits of our resources?	302
	Expert and public knowledge differences	303
	Protests and social movements as mechanisms to generate a	
	more equal future	306
	Social movements, protest and greater equality?	306
	A more peaceful and stable world?	307
	Barriers to ending war and creating more equality	307
	The future of social inequality	307
	Summary of key points	309
	List of questions to stimulate debate and reflection	310
	Further reading	310
Gl	ossary	312
	ferences	321
	lex	396