



KS3 resources answers and examples

Wealth and Poverty

You can use these answers and examples to get help if you are stuck and to check your answers when you have finished them, and to improve your work if you can.

For many of the questions, there could be more than one way of writing a good answer – in these cases, we've given some examples of what a good answer might say, but there are also other things that you could correctly use in your answer.

The questions are in bold, and the answers and examples are in italics.

Page 1

How might having wealth and being in poverty affect people's lives? Working in pairs or small groups, discuss how the lives of rich and poor people might be different in the following ways. Choose at least three from the list.

There are lots of things which you could have said during this discussion. Here are some examples of things you might have included.

What sort of house they live in: Poorer people are more likely to have less space in their house and to live in worse-quality housing. They may not have a house and sleep rough, or might need to rely on a shelter. Poorer people are more likely to rent their home rather than own it.

What sort of education they have: Poorer people might find it difficult to afford the costs of transport, school uniform, books and school trips. Wealthy families have more choice over how their children should be educated, because they are more likely to be able to have them educated privately.

The work they do: Wealthy people might not work any less hard than poorer people, but they are more likely to have a well-paid job which is office- or home-based. Poorer people may have little job security, for example being on a zero-hours contract. They are probably more likely to have dull or repetitive jobs.

Their access to technology: Rich people are likely to have ready access to up-to-date technology, making it easier for them to learn effectively, to communicate and to receive entertainment.

How good their diet is: Rich people are unlikely to ever need to worry about where their next meal is coming from. They can probably buy more varied and better-quality food, and are also likely to be able to eat out more often. Poorer people may need to buy cheaper, less nutritious food, and perhaps sometimes skip meals because of the cost involved.

Their access to water: The poorest people in the world, especially those in developing countries, may not have access to water that is safe to drink, and they may need to walk long distances to

a water supply. As water is also used for hygiene as well as drinking, the poorest people find themselves in unsanitary conditions.

Vulnerability to corruption or justice: Wealthy people are more likely to be able to get access to lawyers if they need to, and in societies where corruption is common they may be able to 'buy' their way out of bad situations even if they are guilty of wrongdoing. Poorer people may find that they are stereotyped and considered guilty just because they are poor. If they have also suffered from a lack of education, they may not fully know what their rights are or what support is available to them.

How safe they are: Wealthy people are more likely to live in secure places and in a 'good' area that has little crime, whereas poorer people may be more vulnerable.

Which of them do you think can be problems in the developed world as well as the developing world?

The problems caused by poverty and the differences between the lifestyles of the rich and the poor are probably more common and easier to see in the developing world, but most of them can be found in developed countries as well.

In which do you think there is the greatest inequality (difference between wealthy people and poor people?)

There can be great inequalities between rich and poor in all of these areas. The most obvious is probably what sort of house they live in, where there is a great difference between the houses of the very richest and the homelessness of the poorest. These examples of how inequality can be seen are inter-connected. For example, having a better job makes it more likely that you will have a good house and diet, and being poorly educated limits your ability to make improvements in other areas of life, such as finding a better job and using technology.

Page 2

What does the Old Testament say about poverty?

What do these proverbs say about how to treat the poor?

You could summarise what these proverbs say as: God wants people to care about and for the poor, by being generous, kind and caring and by standing up for them when they need help.

What do they say about why it should be done?

You could summarise what they say about this as: Christians should care for the poor because that is what God wants them to, and because he is pleased when they do it. They also indicate that ill-treating the poor is insulting to God, but that he blesses those who are kind.

What could a modern-day Christian who reads these sayings do to try to put them into practice?

A modern day Christian who wanted to put these verses into practice might do so by giving their time as a volunteer to help with a charity which works to alleviate poverty, for example by helping at a food bank or soup kitchen. They might take a gap year that is based in a

developing country, or donate their own money or raise money to send to charities which work with those in need. In many ways, the practical things that Christians might do to support charities are very similar to those that people of other religions or who don't follow a religion might do, but for Christians, practical action would usually be accompanied by prayer. They might also notice that some of the proverbs are about how they feel about the poor as well as what they do, and try to focus on their own attitudes.

Page 3

The Rich Young Man

What did Jesus tell the young man he had to do? (If you look carefully, there are three things to find.)

They are: to sell all of his possessions, give the money to the poor and then go to follow Jesus.

What would he then receive?

If you're using the version of the resource which uses the CEV Bible translation, then the answer is 'riches in heaven'. If you're using the version which uses the NRSV translation, then it's 'treasure in heaven'. (The Greek word used by Matthew can be translated into English either way.)

Why do you think that the young man went away sad or grieving?

The young man went away sad because he had been asked to give away what was most important to him, his wealth, and it seems that he couldn't bring himself to do it. By giving away his riches he would also give away his luxurious lifestyle, his standing in the community and his freedom to live as he liked.

Complete this sentence using the missing words.

Jesus' hearers were used to the idea that *wealth* was a sign of God's *blessing*, so they would probably have been *surprised* to hear that the young man's wealth was what could *stop* him from getting to *heaven*.

Sum up what Jesus said in this passage in one sentence of less than 25 words.

To get to heaven, as well as following the Ten Commandments, give up anything that you put before following him, such as possessions.

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How do Bible scholars use different methods to help them to get a better understanding of a Bible passage they are studying?

They make comparisons between different parts of the Bible, especially where the same story appears more than once.

They look for evidence from *archaeology* or *history* to help them to understand the background.

They look at the original *language* that the passage was written in. Most of the Old Testament was written in *Hebrew*, and the New Testament was written almost entirely in *Greek*.

What does Paul say is ‘a root of all kinds of evil’? What specific difficulties does he mention?

Paul says that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. He says that eagerness to get rich has pulled people away from the Christian faith and has brought them all sorts of problems. Paul lived in the Roman Empire in the first century CE, which was a time of inequality possibly greater than can be found today – the very richest Romans lived lives of (for the time) great luxury and extravagance, while the very poorest were slaves.

Paul refers to ‘the uncertainty of riches’. In some other translations of this passage it says ‘wealth that is easily lost’ instead. What can be ‘easily lost’ and ‘uncertain’ about wealth and riches?

By saying this, Paul probably meant two things. Firstly, that wealth may not be permanent, as it can be lost in various ways. Things like financial disaster, loss of a job or poor money management can all mean that people who had wealth can lose it. As well as money, the lifestyle which it brings can also be lost. Like other Christians, Paul believed that God, his love for humanity and the afterlife are all eternal, compared to which even great wealth is only a temporary and short-lived thing. This is similar to Jesus’ teaching in the story of the rich young man, that spiritual treasure is much better than having any amount of wealth on earth.

Page 6

How have Christians responded to what the Bible says about wealth and poverty?

In each box on the left, write a summary of what the Bible passage says about how Christians should handle wealth and treat the poor.

Draw lines to connect the boxes on the left with those on the right that show this teaching being put into practice.

First, the summaries. There are lots of different ways that you could have done these. Here are some examples.

The sayings from Proverbs

How should Christians handle wealth?

They should be generous with what they have because that is what God wants them to do, and not look down on people who have less than they do.

How should Christians treat the poor?

They should treat the poor with kindness and give them help, and they should speak out for justice for the poor if they are being wrongly treated.

The story of the rich young man

How should Christians handle wealth?

They should be aware that it can be a barrier to following the sort of life they believe God wants them to. The rich young man couldn't bring himself to sell all of his possessions, even though Jesus directly told him to.

How should Christians treat the poor?

Jesus told the rich young man to sell all of his possessions, and then to give the money to the poor.

1 Timothy chapter 6 verses 10 and 17–18

How should Christians handle wealth?

Christians should be careful that loving money doesn't cause them all kinds of trouble. They should not hoard money, and they should not be fooled into thinking that having a lot of money brings security, because it can be easily lost. Instead, they should rely on God and be generous in helping others.

How should Christians treat the poor?

Christians are to be generous and view giving money to others as sharing what God has given to them.

Next, the connections:

*For **The sayings from Proverbs**, the best connections are to 'tithing or regular giving', the charities and 'speaking out against poverty'.*

*For **The story of the Rich Young Man** the best connection is to 'giving up all possessions'.*

*For **1 Timothy chapter 6 verses 10 and 17–18** the connections are a little less direct. It could connect to any of them, but the best connections are probably to 'tithing and regular giving', and 'volunteering for a charity', as ways of doing good deeds and helping everyone as Paul told Timothy to instruct his followers to do.*