

6.5 Inequality

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 10 marks**

KEY WORDS progressive 累进 • gini coefficient 基尼系数 • lorenz curve 洛伦兹曲线
• regressive 累退 • wealth inequality 财富不平等

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **inequality**.

You must be able to:

- distinguish **income inequality** 收入不平等 from **wealth inequality** 财富不平等
- interpret a **Lorenz curve** 洛伦兹曲线
- calculate and interpret the **Gini coefficient** 基尼系数
- distinguish **progressive** 累进, **proportional** 比例, and **regressive** 累退 tax structures

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ Income vs wealth

Income is a flow (earnings over a period); **wealth** is a stock (accumulated assets). Wealth is usually more unequal.

■ Lorenz curve and Gini

The **Lorenz curve** plots the cumulative share of income against the cumulative share of the population; the further it bows from the 45-degree line, the more unequal. The **Gini coefficient** ranges from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (perfect inequality).

■ Tax structures

Progressive — the rate rises with income; **proportional** — a flat rate; **regressive** — the rate falls as income rises. Progressive taxes reduce inequality.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between income and wealth inequality. [2]

2.2 State what a Gini coefficient of 0 means. [1]

2.3 State the difference between a progressive and a regressive tax. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A Lorenz curve plots the distribution of [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A prices
B income
C output
D interest rates

3.2 A progressive tax takes a _____ share of income as income rises. [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A smaller
B larger
C constant
D zero

3.3 A country's Gini coefficient rises from 0.30 to 0.45.

- (a) State whether inequality rose or fell. [1]
(b) State what a Gini of 0 would mean. [1]
(c) Name a tax structure that reduces inequality. [1]