

# 5.2 Poverty

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **Total: 19 marks**

**KEY WORDS** poverty 贫困 • absolute poverty 绝对贫困 • causes 原因  
• economic growth 经济增长 • relative poverty 相对贫困

## Objective

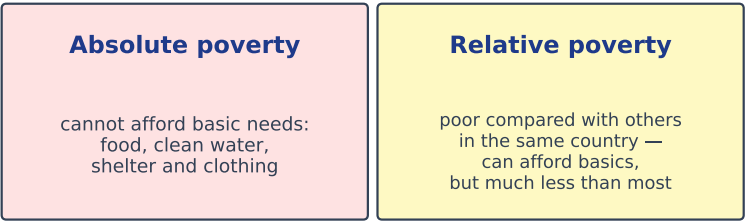
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **poverty** 贫困 — **absolute and relative** 绝对与相对 poverty, the **causes** 原因, and the **policies** 政策 to reduce it.

You must be able to:

- distinguish absolute from relative poverty
- explain the causes of poverty
- analyse policies to reduce poverty

## 1 Worked examples

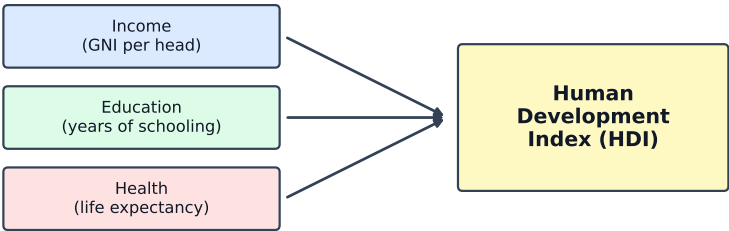
### Two types of poverty



Exam: absolute = cannot meet basic needs; relative = far below the country's typical living standard

*Poverty: when people cannot afford a basic standard of living*

- **Absolute poverty** 绝对贫困: cannot afford even basics (food, clean water, shelter).
- **Relative poverty** 相对贫困: poor *compared with others* in the same country.
- **Causes:** low income/wages or unemployment, poor education and health, old age, large families.
- **Policies:** **economic growth** 经济增长, **redistribute** 再分配 income, a **minimum wage** 最低工资, **benefits** 福利, better state education/healthcare.



Exam: HDI = income + education + health — broader than GDP alone for living standards

*Poverty and development move together — the HDI captures the income, health and education a poor country lacks*

**Answer shapes:** K + App + An + Ev (a justified judgement, for discuss questions).

## 2 Practice

**2.1** Define the term *absolute poverty*. [2]

**2.2** State the difference between absolute and relative poverty. [2]

**2.3** State two causes of poverty. [2]

### 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** A person who can afford the basics but earns far less than most others in their country is in: [1]

- **A** absolute poverty
- **B** relative poverty
- **C** no poverty
- **D** unemployment

**3.2** Explain two policies a government could use to reduce poverty. [4]

**3.3** Discuss whether economic growth is the best way to reduce poverty. [8]

### Solutions

IGCSE Economics answers are marked by **level of response**: award **K** knowledge, **App** application, **An** analysis and **Ev** a justified judgement.

**2.1** when people cannot afford even the basic needs of food, clean water, shelter and clothing (2 for a clear definition; 1 for a partial idea).

**2.2** absolute poverty means lacking basic needs; relative poverty means being poor compared with most others in the same country (2 for a clear difference; 1 for a partial idea).

**2.3** any two of: low income/wages; unemployment; poor education or health; old age; large families (1 + 1).

**3.1 B.** Being poor compared with others in the same country is relative poverty.

**3.2 [4]** For **each** of two policies: K 1 + An 1 — *benefits*: cash payments raise the income of the poorest → less absolute poverty; *minimum wage*: a legal lowest wage raises the pay of low-paid workers → fewer of the working poor.

**3.3 [8]** K/App/An up to 5 + Ev up to 3. **For growth**: a growing economy creates jobs and incomes, and gives the government more tax to fund help for the poor. **Against**: if the gains go mostly to the rich, growth can leave the poor behind (relative poverty may even rise), and growth alone does not guarantee schools, healthcare or benefits reach them. **Judgement (Ev)**: growth helps reduce poverty when its gains are shared, but it works best combined with redistribution and better services — so it is not enough on its own.