

Nat 5

International Issues

World Power

USA

Questions & Answers

Participation

Describe, in detail, (two) ways in which citizens from a world power (USA) can participate in elections. (4-6)

PEE from
voting in elections at various levels
stand as a candidate
help candidate during election campaign
fundraising

Americans can vote for the candidates of their choice at local, state and Federal elections (1). This means that they have a say in who becomes their elected representatives at different levels of government.(2) For example, Americans in California have voted for Obama as President, Barbara Boxer as Senator, Nancy Pelosi as Representative and Jerry Brown as Governor.(3)

As well as voting for people, Americans can vote for propositions such as the ones to end gay marriage in California or the one to legalise Cannabis in Colorado.(2)

Americans can get involved in the election campaign by canvassing on behalf of their candidate. (1) This means that they will telephone people to identify supporters and encourage them to vote .(2) They may also put bumper stickers on their cars and donate to election campaigns to help finance advertisements on TV on behalf of the candidate.(3)

Apart from voting, describe, in detail, the ways in which citizens from a world power (USA) can participate in politics. (6)

PEE from:

- join a political party such as Democrats / Republicans
- stand as a candidate
- join an Interest Group e.g. NRA
- support candidates during election campaign
- donate money

Americans can join a political party such as the Democrats. (1) This means that they can attend party meetings, help shape policy and campaign to get candidates elected. (2) In time, a member may be selected as a candidate for Mayor or the local State Assembly. (3)

Americans may join an Interest Group such as the National Rifle Association (NRA). (1) This means that they will fight to keep their constitutional right to “bear arms” and oppose gun control.(2) NRA members will lobby state officials and Congressmen in an attempt to seek their support to fight further gun control measures.(3) The NRA also donate money to candidates and in return, expect them to support the NRA.

Explain, in detail, the reasons why ethnic minorities are now more likely to participate in politics..... (8)

PEE from:

- increase in numbers educated, hence increase in politics
- increase in number of role models
- increase in black middle class
- celebrity voting campaigns
- Redistricting

There are now more positive role models to inspire ethnic minorities. (1) This helps to convince them that they can be successful in politics. The election of Barak Obama as the first black President has convinced many blacks that they can achieve the “Dream.”(2) Furthermore, when prominent blacks like Condoleeza Rice hold important roles in government and Latinos are elected to Congress such as Bob Menendez, it convinces ethnic minorities to get involved politically.(3)

There is a link between education and political involvement. The more educated people are, the more they will engage politically. (1) In recent years, the rise of college educated minorities as a result of Affirmative Action has coincided with the rise in numbers of blacks and Hispanics registering to vote and taking part in politics.(2) The rising black middle class in the suburbs are much more politically motivated that the poor, uneducated blacks in the ghetto.(3)

In recent years, there has been a number of celebrity voting campaigns to encourage ethnic minorities to register to vote or to vote in elections. (1) One such was the “vote or die “campaign spearheaded by P. Diddy. (2)

As a result of Re-districting, many minorities now find themselves in the same electoral district and so they are much more likely to get an ethnic minority

candidate elected.(1) This policy has contributed to the increase in numbers of blacks elected to the House of Representatives..(2)

Rights and Responsibilities

Describe, in detail, the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a world power (USA). (6)

PEE from:

- right to vote in elections
- right to freedom of speech
- right to protest and demonstrate e.g. outside Whitehouse
- right to join a political party or Interest Group
- responsibility to register to vote and use vote in considered way
- responsibility to respect views of others and not mislead public
- responsibility to demonstrate peacefully, stay within law

Americans have the right to vote on local, State and Federal elections. (1) This means that they can have a say in deciding who is elected to represent them. For example, they could vote for Obama as President; Barbara Boxer as Senator and Jerry Brown as Governor. Indeed, they can vote for a whole range of individuals down to the dog-catcher. (3) However, they have the responsibility to accept the democratic result and to vote in a considered way, (1)

Americans have the right to join an Interest Group. (1) This means that they will join with people who share the same views as they do on important issues and together they will campaign on behalf of their interests. (2) For example, the USA is a nation of gun lovers and many suspect that the government intends to further extend gun control. The NRA will campaign on behalf of gun lovers to try to prevent further gun controls.(3) However, the NRA must respect the views of others who do not share their views about guns and make sure that they do not tell lies in their campaign literature,(1)

Americans have the right to protest and demonstrate. (1) This means that they can join together to voice their support or opposition to government measures by taking to the streets in protest. e.g. many anti-war demonstrators protested outside the Whitehouse against the war in Iraq. Alternatively, many

celebrated outside the Whitehouse to show their support at the killing of Osama Bin Laden. (3)

Explain, in detail, why some citizens from a world power criticise their government for the limitations placed on their political rights. (6)

PEE from:

- access to voter registration and voting
- level of political choice
- issues of freedom of speech / religion/ media
- political integrity and corruption

The American Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, guarantees many freedom and rights to Americans. Some, however, believe that the government is trying to limit their rights. e.g. Some states remove convicted felons from the voters roll and people may end up disenfranchised. (1) In 2000, many Floridians discovered that they were not entitled to vote. Furthermore, the government makes voter registration a time consuming issue with complex forms to complete and a limited window to complete them. This puts many Americans without transport or a good education off registering to vote. (3)

Sometimes Americans feel that their right to demonstrate is under threat (1) Authorities have increasingly tried to ban protests or prevent them from protesting outside government buildings. For example, Anti-G8 protestors were kept well away from government buildings and were strictly shepherded by the Police. (3)

Some Americans believe that their freedom is under threat from the PATRIOT Act. (1) This law, passed after 911, greatly increased the power of the government to spy on its own citizens and to detain as a terrorist almost anyone who comes under government scrutiny. Many Americans were shocked to discover just what power had been handed to the government by Congress.

Describe, in detail, how the rights of citizens of a world power (USA) are protected by the constitution. (4-6)

PEE from:

- right to vote, join political parties / Interest Groups guaranteed
- right to protest / demonstrate protected by constitution
- right to “bear arms”
- right to fair trial
- freedom of speech

Freedom of speech is guaranteed by the US Constitution.(1) This means that Americans have the right and the freedom to voice their concerns to politicians and the media.(2) e.g. Many Americans contacted newspapers and Radio Talk Shows to voice their opposition to Obamacare. Fox news, especially, proved to be a vehicle allowing criticism of the President’s Health Reforms. (3)

Americans also have the democratic right under the constitution to protest and demonstrate. (1) This means that they are free to show their opposition to government actions or proposed changes. (2) They can, for example, organise a large protest such as that organised by supporters of the TEA party who wanted to stop further tax increases. (3)

If Americans feel that their rights are being violated, they can take legal action all the way up to the Supreme Court. (1) e.g. White students who were denied a place at Medical School as a result of Affirmative Action favouring minorities with lesser grades have taken their case to the Supreme Court. (2)

Explain, in detail, why women and ethnic minorities are poorly represented in politics in a world power. (USA)(6-8)

PEE from:

- relatively few role models for both women and ethnic minorities at top levels of political system
- Turnout is low for ethnic minorities -low voting figures
- ethnic minorities and women find it difficult to be chosen as candidates
- US electoral system produces a less representative result
- high cost of running for office puts minority candidates off

Traditionally women and ethnic minorities have been under-represented in the House of Representatives and the Senate.eg despite making up 50% of the population; there are only 20 women in the Senate and 79 in the House. There has frequently not been a single black Senator. Therefore, the lack of role

models to inspire them is one reason why women and ethnic minorities don't put themselves forward for election. (2)

America is very "conservative" in the "South" and "Mid –West." The electorate do not frequently vote for female candidates in these areas as the people still have very traditional beliefs about the role of women as Homemakers. This may account for the lack of female candidates in these areas and hence the lack of women elected to office. (2)

Political participation is linked to education. The reality is that ethnic minorities such as Blacks and Hispanics tend to do less well in school and drop out. This means that they are less likely to register to vote and become politically active. (2)

Some American people are still prejudiced. They may discriminate against women or hold racist views. The result is that such people will not support women or ethnic minorities as candidates or vote for them in elections. (2)

Describe, in detail, at least two main political institutions of the government of a world power (USA). (6)

PEE from:

- the legislative branch – Congress
- the executive branch – President
- the judicial branch – Supreme Court
- Separation of Powers: Federal / State Government.

The American Constitution, created by the "Founding Fathers", defined the powers and duties of the three main branches of government. The Constitution created a legislative branch known as Congress. This is made up of a Senate of one hundred Senators, two from each state and a House of Representatives, numbering 435, based on population of the state. The role of Congress is to pass laws, ratify foreign treaties, and scrutinise the work of the executive through Congressional Committees. (3)

The President and his team make up the Executive. The President is the Chief Legislator: The President implements laws and proposes new laws to Congress e.g. Obamacare. The President is Head of State, representing the USA abroad and meeting with world leaders. The President can negotiate treaties with

other countries, but they must be ratified by Congress. The President is also Commander –In –Chief of the American armed forces and he can launch military strikes on other countries e.g. Obama launched strikes against Libya However, he cannot declare war and Congress has not done so since ww2(3)

The Supreme Court is the judicial branch of government. The Supreme Court Justices are appointed by the President. It is the highest court in the land and has been responsible for some of the most important legal decisions, of which one of the most recent was to declare Obamacare constitutional. Indeed, it is the Supreme Court that rules new laws or Presidential actions constitutional or not. The Supreme Court has ruled on important issues such as abortion and Affirmative Action. (3)

Immigration

Describe, in detail, (two) reasons why a world power (USA) attracts immigrants. (4-6)

PEE from:

- human rights and political freedoms
- economic opportunities : jobs, start a business , American Dream
- Opportunities for children e.g. Education
- family already settled in USA

Immigrants are attracted to the USA because it is the “land of the free.” It upholds Human Rights and allows political freedoms. (1) The USA has freedom of speech. This allows people to voice their political opinions, something that immigrants may not have been allowed to do in their own country. (2) e.g. many Chinese immigrants value this freedom because they did not have it in communist China. (3)

Some people are attracted to the USA because of the economic opportunities that exist. In the USA people are encouraged to work hard and able to enjoy the fruits of their labour. (1) Under the American capitalist system, immigrants can set up a business, grow the business, become wealthy and live the “American Dream.”(2) For example, Jerry Yang, the multi-millionaire founder of Yahoo, arrived in the USA as a child, knowing only the word “shoe. Through his hard work, he became a successful entrepreneur. (3)

Some immigrants are attracted to the USA because it offers wonderful educational opportunities that they may have been denied in their own country. (1) Even the children of illegal immigrants receive a free education at school and have the opportunity to attend some of the top universities in the world such as Harvard or Yale. (2) Many Chinese Asians are very successful at school and there are lots of opportunities for minorities to win scholarships. (3)

Describe, in detail, ways in which the government of a world power (USA) is trying to stop illegal immigration. (6)

PEE from:

- strengthen border security with Mexico
- increase border patrols
- increase border / immigration checks
- imprisonment and deportation of illegals
- sanctions on employers who hire illegals
- Limit welfare for illegals

The American government has taken a number of steps to stop illegal immigration in recent years. It passed The Secure Fence Act and built 500 miles of border fencing along the Mexican border. (1) The aim of this was to make it much more difficult for illegals to cross over from Mexico. (2)

The US government has increased funding to the border patrols and increased their manpower. (1) Illegals caught crossing the border are arrested and quickly deported back to Mexico.(2) Unfortunately, the same people will try again the next evening because they are determined to live in the USA where they can earn more in a week that a month at home.(3)

Employers who knowingly hire illegals now face sanctions from the government such as fines. (1) However, enforcement seems half- hearted as in some areas, agriculture and construction cannot function without illegals working. (2)

In recent years, some states such as Arizona and Alabama have taken action themselves and passed laws to give increased powers of stop and search to the Police. (1) They have requested that public sector agencies report suspected illegals to the authorities. (2) President Obama has proposed a new law that will strengthen the border fence and will also provide a pathway to citizenship for illegals who declare themselves and pay taxes.(3)

Social & Economic General

Explain, in detail, why social and economic inequalities exist in a world power. (USA). (6-8)

PEE from:

- Health : some don't have health insurance –hence Obamacare
- Education : wealthy in private or suburban schools v poor in ghetto school
- Housing : suburban gated community v inner city “projects”
- wealth : contrasting lifestyle of wealthy with poor/unemployed
- discrimination and prejudice still exist
- white and black flight

As a result of” white flight “and nowadays of “black flight”, the prosperous middle classes have moved to the suburbs (1) where they send their children to well-equipped and staffed private or suburban schools. This contrasts with the poor and unemployed who are stuck in the inner-city and who are forced to send their children to poor rundown ghetto schools. (2) For example, Harper High in Chicago has no instruments for its marching band and an empty swimming pool. In contrast, the suburban school twenty miles away has an Olympic size swimming pool and its own theatre. (4)

The wealthy live in the suburbs or “high class” suburbs in large spacious houses or gated communities., whereas the poor and unemployed live in the run down “projects” in the ghetto, where amenities are poor and crime is a problem.(2)

The educationally successful go on to college and university and later obtain high income jobs such as lawyers or CEOs enjoying perks like health insurance or company cars. In contrast, those who drop out of school are lucky to make minimum wage if they are employed at all. (2)

The American Capitalist system creates winners and losers. (1) Successful businesses expand, creating wealth for their owners or shareholders as well as creating jobs for workers. e.g. Microsoft. This company made Bill Gates one of the world's richest men. (2) However, not all businesses succeed. Many go to the wall, close down with major financial losses and create unemployment. (3)

Some groups such as Blacks still face racism and discrimination. (1) This means that they may miss out on jobs or promotions because of the colour of their skin.(2) Although this is illegal, it is still widespread in some areas and even large corporations have been found guilty e.g. Coca-Cola.(3) Alternatively, Blacks may find themselves being denied a mortgage or a loan because of “redlining.” (4)

Describe, in detail, from a world power you have studied (USA) at least two government responses to economic and social problems. (6-8)

PEE from:

- Education : The American Recovery Reinvestment Act 2012
- Health : Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
- Crime : Obama’s gun proposals
- Economic : American Recovery Reinvestment Act / Small Business Jobs Act

In response to the fact that millions of Americans were without health insurance, President Obama introduced the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) (1) This was designed to move the country towards universal health coverage, to reduce inequalities and to keep health and insurance costs down. (2) Furthermore, those without health insurance must take out health cover. Insurance companies must accept all applicants and cannot charge sick people more. Those on low incomes will get a subsidy to cover costs. (3)

In response to failing schools, the government introduced the American Recovery Reinvestment Act which provided millions of dollars for elementary and secondary schools. (1) The act aims to provide all schools with highly qualified teachers, to improve low performing or failing schools by imposing new management structures and finally by providing funds to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to get into College.(3)

To tackle unemployment and the economy, the government introduced the American Recovery Reinvestment Act which injected funds into the economy to prevent a further depression and help save three million jobs. (2) Obama also introduced the Small Business Jobs Act which promised tax breaks and better access to credit for millions of small businesses. (3) He also signed Wall

Street Reform, the strictest consumer protection in US history which also held Wall Street to account.

Explain, in detail, the social and economic reasons why some citizens in a world power | (USA) have become successful. (8)

PEE from:

- capitalist system and the American Dream
- some enjoy private or suburban schools and gain the fruitage of a good education
- good parental role models of the suburban middle classes
- whites don't face discrimination

Many Americans have become successful because they enjoyed an excellent education. (1) Those living in the middle class suburbs send their children to private or superb suburban schools which provide quality teaching and excellent opportunities. Most go on to university and this allows them to gain high income jobs such as lawyers and doctors. (2) In the USA, there is a strong link between education and income: the better the qualification, the higher the income. (3) Those with professional degrees can enjoy high incomes, but those who drop out of school will be lucky to get minimum wage (4)

Many Americans are able to take advantage of the capitalist system which encourages hard work and enterprise. (1) As a result of their hard work, they earn high incomes or they set up a successful business which makes a lot of money.(2) This allows them to live the "American Dream" with a big house in the suburbs, a flashy car and a very high standard of living. e.g. Bill Gates became one of the world's richest men after the success of Microsoft. (4)

Many black children have enjoyed the benefit of "black flight." (1) Their professional parents have moved to the suburbs and have been positive role models in terms of education and employment. (2) They have encouraged their children to do well in school, go to university and work hard in their jobs. This contrasts with the poor blacks in the ghetto who often find themselves in lone parent families reliant on welfare.(3)

Explain, in detail, why ONE of the following issues is a problem:

a) Poor Education; b) Poor Housing; c) Health Inequalities; d) Crime. (6-8)

PEE from:

- quality housing of suburbs v slums of ghetto
- suburban schools v poor inner-city schools
- People who have or have no health insurance
- issues relating to criminal justice

Many Americans, who live in poor inner-city areas, receive a poor education in contrast to those who live in the rich suburbs. (1) Unlike the superbly equipped and high achieving schools in the suburbs, the schools in the inner-city or ghetto areas are often run down, poorly equipped and poorly staffed. (2) For example, the students of Harper High in Chicago have a swimming pool with no water and a music department with no instruments. (3) To further complicate matters, the school struggles to attract teachers (4) as many are reluctant to work in such poor conditions and dangerous communities.(5)e.g. many teachers in ghetto areas are attacked by their students every year and as a result, the school is forced to rely on substitute teachers who have no relationship with the students.(6). It is difficult for many of the students who want to do well because many of their peers grow up in a culture of failure and have no motivation in class and so become disruptive. (7) The schools under perform in national tests and many students drop out because they do not value education or see any point to it. (8)

In one of the richest countries in the world, millions are homeless and millions more live in poor housing. Unlike the wealthy middle classes in their large homes with a white picket fence or gated communities, the poor and unemployed are often found in rundown neighbourhoods, living in slum housing and in poverty. Many live in the “projects”, areas of low rent social housing infested with gangs. For example, in Chicago one set of four tower blocks is gang territory with a different gang in control of each tower block. This has resulted in years of gang warfare and the deaths of many young people. In the poor inner-city or ghetto communities, the city authorities are often broke and struggle to pay for street cleaning and general cleansing services. As a result, the “hood” is often dirty and covered in graffiti. Indeed, the city Fathers struggle to pay for policing and the Police budget is often stretched to the limit. As a result, these are areas of high crime and so are dangerous places in which to live. e.g. the most likely cause of death for a black male 16- 40 is murder.

Explain, in detail, why some ethnic groups do better in employment than others in a world power you have studied. (6)

PEE from:

- poor educational attainment of some groups leading to higher levels of unemployment and concentration in low skilled occupations.
- education success of whites and Asians
- illegal status of some restricts employment opportunities
- racism and discrimination in the workplace still affects some
- impact of Affirmative Action Programmes
- impact of decline of Affirmative Action
- language problems

Some groups such as Asians tend to achieve high grades at school and are known as “high achievers.”(1) This means that they are more likely to go on to university, and later, to obtain high income jobs. (2) e.g. 25% of students at UCLA are Asian. Many will go into high income new tech jobs.(3) In contrast, Black and Hispanic students are more likely to drop out of school than any other group and so they will be restricted to low income employment.(4)

Some Blacks have benefited from Affirmative Action Programmes and as a result have gained entry to university or employment. (1) In turn, this has helped many of them to gain high paying jobs and has contributed to the rise of the Black Middle Class. (2) However, Affirmative Action mainly helped the educated and skilled Blacks and did little to help the poor, un educated and unskilled in the ghetto. (3)

Some Hispanic immigrants may face language problems. (1) Their lack of English may restrict their employment opportunities. (2) Furthermore, there are millions of illegals in the USA, many of them Hispanics. Without proper documentation, they face limited opportunities to find employment. (3) However, other Hispanics who have been in the USA for generations do not face such language problems or job restrictions and so can become prosperous, enjoying their share of the “American Dream.”(4)

Describe, in detail, two inequalities in health between different ethnic groups, (4-6)

PEE from:

- lower life expectancy for Blacks compared to whites
- higher levels of infant mortality rates for Blacks and Native Americans
- lower levels of health insurance cover for ethnic minorities
- poor health position in Native American population

Although their life expectancy is improving, Blacks still lag behind their white counterparts by several years. (1) This is because a greater percentage of Blacks are to be found in low income groups and living in poverty. (2) This affects health. Furthermore, many Blacks live in ghetto communities, where drugs and crime remain a problem. e.g. the biggest cause of death for Blacks aged 16-40 is not cancer or heart disease, but murder. (3)

There are lower levels of health insurance cover in the Black and Hispanic communities. (1) Health insurance cover is very expensive and many Blacks and Hispanics are priced out of the market. (2) Although many employees get health insurance through their work, many Blacks and Hispanics are employed in the type of low paid work that may offer little or no health insurance cover.(3)

Explain, in detail, why an ethnic group in a world power (USA) has made social and economic progress in recent years. (6-8)

PEE from:

- Benefits of Affirmative Action
- Improvements in education
- Black Flight
- Entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants
- improved access to healthcare

I have chosen Asian Americans. They have enjoyed great success in the American education system (1) Many Asians have become the top or elite students at school and go on to university and high income jobs. (2) e.g. 25% of students at UCLA are Asians, although they make up less than 7% of the population. (3)

Asian Americans enjoy stable and supportive family structures, with a high percentage of two parent families. (1) Asian parents value education and see it is the doorway to prosperity. They strongly encourage their children to

succeed. (2) Two parent families can produce a higher household income and consequently enjoy better housing in the suburbs and better healthcare. (3)

There is a spirit of entrepreneurship in the Asian community and this leads to economic progress and prosperity. (1) e.g. Many Koreans own “corner shops”. They open long hours and are known for their strong work ethic. (2) Many grow their business and diversify by becoming landlords in Black and Hispanic communities. (3) However, they are not always popular in Black or Hispanic neighbourhoods and many Korean businesses were attacked during the famous LA riots. However, many Koreans armed themselves and defended their businesses. (4)

Explain, in detail, why the government has made changes to healthcare and, explain, in detail, why there has been opposition to the changes. (6-8)

For Reasons For Changes, PEE from:

- USA has poor health record by international comparison
- Millions of Americans were not covered by health insurance
- high cost of healthcare
- some have only limited or partial cover

For Reasons For Opposition, PEE from:

- health care companies opposed government involvement
- some believe it would cost too much and raise taxes
- some oppose government interference in their life
- political opposition to President Obama

One of the reasons that the USA made changes to the healthcare system was because millions of Americans did not have health insurance cover.(1) The USA does not have a NHS and so Americans had to take out health insurance to pay for health care. Although many got health insurance through their job, around 30 million had no cover. (2) For some, this meant that they could not afford basic health care and treatments and would have to rely on charitable groups who provide some health care.(3) e.g. some religious groups fund hospitals or clinics that treat emergencies and provide basic health care.(4)

The cost of health insurance is high and it priced some families out of the market.(1) Even for some who had health insurance, pre –existing conditions were not covered or there was only limited cover for chronic illnesses(2) e.g.

Michael Moore, the documentary maker, highlighted the plight of many poor Americans in his film "Sicko."(3)

To end the problem of millions having no cover, President Obama introduced Obamacare. However, many were opposed to this because they believed it would cost millions of dollars to implement and that it would lead to tax increases.(2) Many Americans, especially Republican supporters, bitterly opposed Obamacare because they believed it would lead to tax increases e.g. TEA party supporters protested against Obamacare many times and tried to stop its introduction.(3)

Describe, in detail, the help poor people in a world power may receive from the government. (6)

PEE from:

- help for poor / elderly through Medicaid / Medicare
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Federal Welfare programme for families administered through the States.
- Food Stamps to provide food for poor families
- Affirmative Action Programmes
- Free Education at school
- Aid given to victims of Hurricane Katrina
- Obama's Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Poor Americans may qualify for TANT. (1) This is a Federal Welfare Programme designed to help needy families. It is administered at State level by authorities who may expect recipients to work for their Welfare Support. (2) There is a limited time that people can qualify for and after this their welfare stops. (3)

Unemployed and low income Americans receives help towards their medical costs through Medicaid. (1) This is a Federal Scheme, administered by the States that provides limited help in terms of treatment and costs. (2) The cover is limited and Americans are still expected to make some contribution towards the cost.(3) President Obama extended the numbers covered through his Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and gave tax subsidies to those not covered to enable them to take out health cover from the market place.(4)

Under his Recovery and Reinvestment Act, President Obama invested millions of dollars in the education system to help poor children in failing schools. (1) This was done to raise standards and help more children reach state targets.

(2) Money was also made available to help poor students from deprived backgrounds get into College. (3)

Explain, in detail, why some groups in a world power have more success in education than others. (8)

PEE from:

- some ethnic groups such as Blacks and Hispanics do less well because many come from poorer socio-economic backgrounds
- some groups, such as Hispanics and recent immigrants do less well due to language problems
- Asians do well due to strong parental support
- many whites do well because they come from wealthy backgrounds
- big difference in spending between the rich suburbs and the ghetto
- university education is expensive and limits many minorities from poorer backgrounds

The children of wealthy Americans, white or black, who live in the suburbs get far more spent on their education than those who live in the poor inner-city ghetto or barrio. (1) This means that those fortunate enough to live in white middle class suburbs attend well-resourced schools with excellent amenities such as swimming pools and football fields. (2) e.g. Harvard Westlake in LA is one of the best equipped schools in the country. This contrasts with Harper High in Chicago which has no water on the swimming pool and no instruments for the marching band. (3) Schools in the ghetto struggle to attract good teachers and often face teacher shortages. Many students end up being taught by substitute teachers. (4)

Some groups, such as blacks, tend to do less well at school because many come from poor backgrounds. (1) About thirty percent of blacks are on low incomes and many come from lone parent families, groups who do not always value education. (2) Many Hispanics are quick to drop out of school and start working for their families. (3) This contrasts with many middle class whites and Asians who highly value education and see it as the gateway to employment success. (4)

Some groups, such as Asians, have proved to be a success story in education. Often Asians graduate at the top of their High School class. (1) This is often because of strong parental support that comes from the Chinese "Tiger

“mother, who pushes her children to be successful.(2) For example, Asians make up 25% of the students at UCLA despite the fact that Asians make up less than seven percent of the population.(3)

Explain, in detail, why not all groups in a world power have equal access to health care. (8)

PEE from:

- private insurance systems are less likely to be accessed by low income groups
- many in employment that does not offer employee health cover benefits
- limited Medicare and Medicaid provision
- levels of state provision vary
- illegal immigrants not entitled to cover
- Obamacare forces people with no cover to take out cover

The USA does not have a National Health Service, free at the point of use. Americans must pay for health care. This can be expensive and lower income groups can struggle to access health care because of the costs. (1) Many Americans get their health insurance through their job. However, many jobs do not provide this and this leaves these workers without cover.(2) With thirty to forty million Americans not covered, President Obama introduced the Affordable Care Act which forces people to take out health cover and gave them tax concessions to help pay for it.(3)

Many unemployed and elderly Americans only qualify for partial cover through Medicaid and Medicare. (1) These are Federal programmes designed to give limited cover to vulnerable groups. (2) Furthermore, these programmes do not cover certain chronic conditions and recipients are still expected to pay some costs. (3) Obama has extended the numbers covered by these programmes as part of Obamacare. (4)

Some groups, such as illegal immigrants, do not qualify for Federal Programmes such as Medicaid. (1) There are millions of illegal immigrants in the USA and so many clearly cannot access these programmes and may have no health cover(2) Many Americans resent any Federal aid being given to illegals and there have been attempts to prevent this in the past, even in emergency situations. e.g. Following the LA earthquake in the 1990s, many

were angered by illegals receiving Federal Aid and so people in California voted for Proposition 187.(3)

Explain, in detail, why some groups / areas suffer badly from crime problems. (6-8)

PEE from:

- Some from areas of deprivation – linked to high crime levels
- some areas have drug problems and gang culture
- high levels of gun crime – laws about gun ownership vary from state to state
- some states have death penalty – may act as a deterrent
- Inequalities between rich and poor: wealthy in gated communities, poor in the “hood.”
- breakdown of traditional family structure has contributed to rise of gangs
- lack of success in education and employment prospects

Some areas, such as the inner-city ghetto, suffer from high levels of deprivation, with poor housing and high unemployment... These are often linked to high crime levels. (1) Crime is highest in US cities; with some neighbourhoods notorious for drugs and gangs (2) e.g. South Central LA has a high crime rate and is known as the “War Zone.”(3)

In some areas, there has been a breakdown in the traditional family structure, with many blacks in particular, living in lone parent / single mum families.(1) This is very common in the ghetto areas and has been blamed for the rise of “gang culture “. (2) Many young men have no male role model and the gang becomes a replacement family. They have life membership e.g. the “Bloods”. They will spend much of their life in prison. (3)

In many inner –city areas, the schools are of poor quality; face a lack of resources and a high dropout rate.(1) Many young blacks in these type of communities do not value education and see little prospect of employment. Often, their role models are the local gangsters and they are quickly lured into a life of crime.(2) Many young black men will end up in prison, rather than in College.(3)

Explain, in detail, why living standards of ethnic minorities have improved in a world power. (8)

PEE from:

- less prejudice and discrimination in education, employment and housing
- better education has led to improved job prospects and earning potential
- Affirmative Action Programmes
- increasing numbers of ethnic minorities in all levels of government seek to invest funds to help poor, especially minorities.

The USA has for many years, favoured Affirmative Action Programmes. (1) In employment, AA has resulted in many minorities getting jobs and promotions that once would have been denied them. This has led to an improved standard of living. (2) In education, AA has led to many Blacks and Hispanics getting into “good schools” with the prospect of a lucrative career ahead of them. This has resulted in the rise of the Black Middle Class and in “Black Flight “to the Suburbs. (3)

In recent years, the government has invested more money in education and adopted strategies to cut dropout rates. (1) As a result, more Blacks and Hispanics are graduating and moving into employment or higher education. (2) For example, Obama’s Recovery and Reinvestment Act results in large sums of money being invested in deprived areas and funds set aside for College places .(3)

Today, in the twenty first century, people are much more tolerant than fifty years ago. Blacks face much less discrimination and racism in employment and housing .(1) Today, it is common to see Blacks at every level of government and to see Blacks in top jobs.(2) For example, Ursula Burns of Xerox; Kenneth Chenault of American Express and Oprah Winfrey of the Oprah Winfrey Network. Today, top Black business people are judged by their talent and not the colour of their skin. (3)-

