

# Poverty

## Sociology skills

- Learning the key words for this topic

## Key skills

- Communication
- Problem solving

## Stimulus materials

A study of poverty by Joseph Rowntree in 1899 suggested that there are two types of poverty. Primary poverty is when people do not earn enough to cover the basic needs of life such as heating and food. Secondary poverty is when people do not earn enough to have the things that people around them take for granted.

When Rowntree studied the population of York in that year, he found that 10% of the population experienced primary poverty and that 18% experienced secondary poverty.

## Understanding the stimulus

1. Who conducted a survey into poor people in 1899?
2. Where did the study take place?
3. How many people did not earn enough to cover their basic needs?
4. What percentage of people did not earn enough to have the things that people around them thought were necessary?
5. What is primary poverty?
6. What is secondary poverty?

## Development and Revision

1. Explain the difference between primary and secondary poverty in your own words.
2. Would a television and a video recorder be a luxury item in modern society according to Rowntree's thinking?
3. Which people are likely to be poor in modern Britain?
4. Suggest a variety of different ways that we could help to prevent poverty in Britain.
5. What does the term 'culture of poverty' as used by Oscar Lewis refer to?
6. Poor people tend have fewer 'life chances' than richer people. What is a life chance?
7. Suggest three ways in which people can become rich in our society.