

## Joint Public Issues Team

Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches  
working together

- [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)
- [www.methodist.org.uk/publicissues](http://www.methodist.org.uk/publicissues)
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**Fair Pay**  
**Fair Tax**  
**Fair Prices**  
**A Fair Say**

**IT'S TIME TO**  
**CLOSE THE GAP**  
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR



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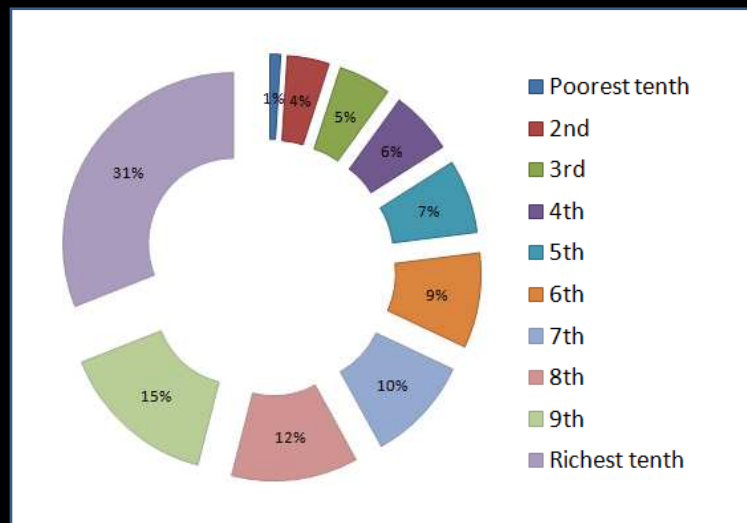
## The Cake Game.

- Get into Groups of 4-6

## The Cake Game.

- Get into Groups of 4-6
  - Each person has a different relationship to the cake
    - Person 1 – Bought the ingredients
    - Person 2 – Made the cake
    - Person 3 – Has missed their last meal
    - Person 4 – Celebrating an exam result
    - Person 5 – is a close relative to Person 2 + 3
    - Person 6 – has just walked in and asked for cake
  - You must decide how to divide the cake justly between each person in the group

## Distribution of income in the UK



# Poverty in the UK some Basic Facts

## Government numbers

DWP statistics

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# 22%

of people in the UK live below the poverty line.

-13.5 million people-

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# 32%

of **Children** in the UK live below the poverty line.

- 2.9 million children -

DWP statistics

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## London is Special

The most unequal City in Western Europe

With the highest levels of wealth and poverty in the UK

DWP statistics

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30%

of Londoners below the poverty line.

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48%

of Children in London below the poverty line.

NOT DWP statistics

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## The Top and Bottom Tenths.

- Split up into two groups

You are in either the top 10% of earners or the bottom 10% of earners.

Describe yourselves:

Examples of characteristics you might think of:

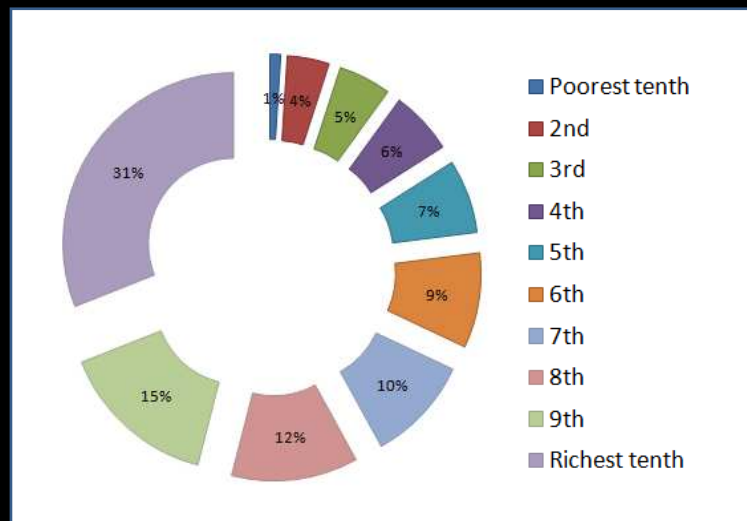
- Looks, Clothes, house, Income, education

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## Distribution of income in the UK



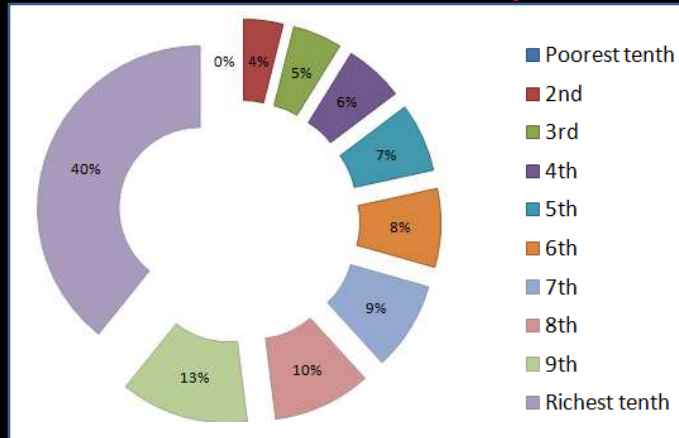
Inequality

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## Economic Growth shares (1997- 2007)



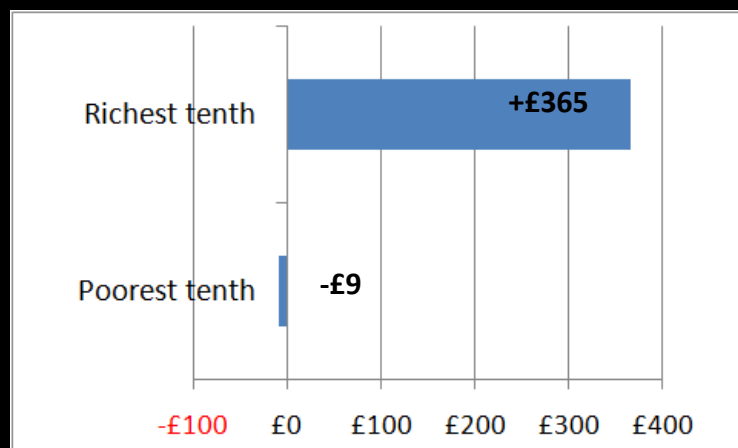
- Richest tenth gained £365 per week
- Poorest tenth **lost** £9 per week

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## Who got wealthier in the good times (1996- 2008)



Inequality

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**The good times (1996-2008)**

**The Crash (2008)**

**Austerity – (Now until 2020)**

**Inequality**


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**A Picture from Page 3 of a  
major national newspaper**

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*What Story did this illustrate?*

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**Feet up: Claimants will lose their disability benefits as the public spending cuts bite**

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Feet up: Claimants will lose their disability benefits as the public spending cuts bite  
**(Posed by model)**

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## Top and bottom tenths.

- Imagine you are a member of the 10%
  - How do you feel?
  - If you deserve your income level how could it be justified?
  - Do you think you are happy with your lot?


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## Top and bottom tenths - some convenient myths

- Poverty in the UK is not real Poverty
- Most people get what they deserve
- Education levels the playing field
- The wealthy pay more tax
- People on benefit do a lot of fraud

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## Incomes.

- Rank these jobs in terms of income:
  - Large company chief executive
  - Unemployed on Benefits
  - GP
  - Teacher
  - Hedge-fund trader
  - Minister of Religion
  - MP
  - Pensioner on Benefits

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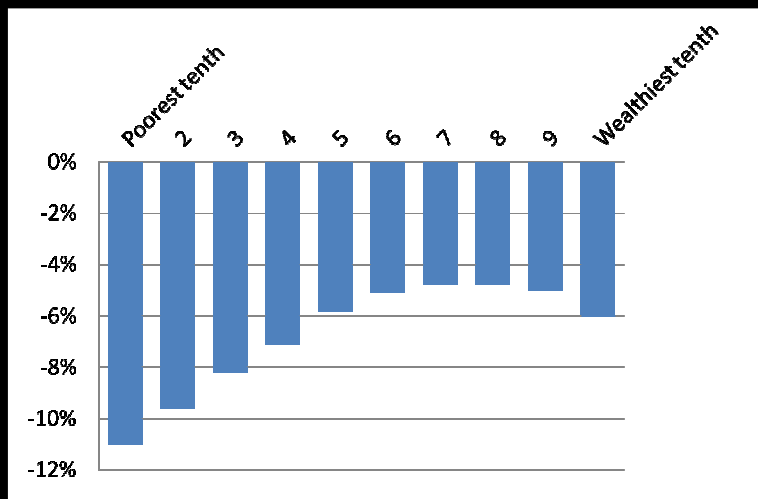
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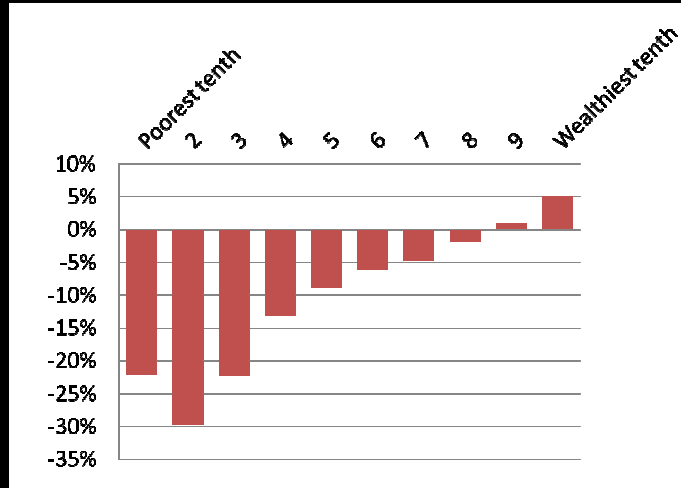
## Incomes.

- Rank these jobs in terms of income:
  - If the world was just would you change the order?
  - How would you judge what a job is worth?

## Cash effects of Government cuts



## Changes in Standard of Living over next 3 years.



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## Some effects of Poverty

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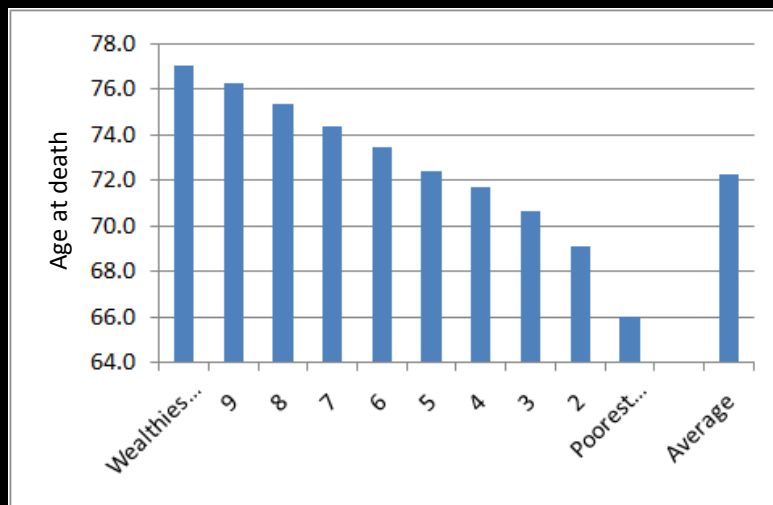
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## Some effects of Poverty


- Dying Younger
- Higher infant mortality
- More disability
- Poor educational attainment
- More Tax
- Poverty is “Sticky and Hereditary”

## What does “Living in Poverty Mean?”



## What does “Living in Poverty Mean?”

- You are now more informed most MP's
- What would you want to change?
- How could you do it?

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## Actions

- Challenge the idea that a person's wealth and a person's worth are linked.
- Sign up to “Close the Gap”.

What questions do you have?

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**Church Action on Poverty**  
sustainable livelihoods – a voice to people in poverty – mobilising churches

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what we do

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**a fair voice for all**  
Watch this new audio slideshow to see how our Community Pride Unit (CPU) is helping people in Salford to have a voice and act for change. Sarah Whitehead talks about how CPU's *Salford Apprentice* programme changed her life.  
Click here to see the slideshow

**Make your Pledge to Close the Gap between rich and poor. Give, Act and Pray with us to build a more equal society - happier, healthier, safer, fairer.**

**e-action: email your MP about Fair Taxes!**  
**ACT TO CLOSE THE GAP**

**get your church involved**  
**SPREAD TO CLOSE THE WORD THE GAP**

**about the campaign**  
**IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR**

**donate regularly**  
**GIVE TO CLOSE THE GAP**

**email actions**  
**ACT TO CLOSE THE GAP**

**Poverty Action Sunday**  
**PRAY TO CLOSE THE GAP**

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**GIVE**  
**ACT**  
**PRAY** **TO CLOSE THE GAP**

[www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

What Pledge  
can YOU make?

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