



## Worksheet 1: Key terms definitions answers

Social stratification and inequality (3.1–3.2)	Definitions
Achieved status	<i>A status that is earned by individuals through their own efforts, hard work or talent.</i>
Ascribed status	<i>A status that an individual is either born into or over which they have little or no control.</i>
Culture of poverty	<i>The idea that poor people have a set of norms and values that keep them in poverty.</i>
Dependency culture	<i>A set of values leading people to lose their ability to look after themselves so they become dependent, e.g. on welfare benefits.</i>
Emigration	<i>The movement of people from a country who wish to settle elsewhere.</i>
Equal opportunities law	<i>Laws that aim to prevent discrimination against minorities or oppressed groups and to give such groups the same chances as others, e.g. in education, housing, the workplace.</i>
Immigration	<i>Immigration means the movement of people into a country.</i>
Intersectionality	<i>How people experience the privileges and inequalities linked to aspects of their identity, such as their gender, ethnicity and social class.</i>
Life chances	<i>The opportunities people have to achieve positive or negative outcomes in areas such as education or health.</i>
Meritocracy	<i>A society in which individuals achieve the level that their talents, ability and effort deserve.</i>
Modern slavery	<i>Modern slavery refers to situations of exploitation in which a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence or deception.</i>
Non-governmental organisations	<i>Organisations that are independent from governments. They are typically non-profit entities, such as charities that are active in humanitarianism.</i>
Redistribution of wealth	<i>The taking of income and wealth from some individuals and giving it to other individuals, usually through legal means by governments to alleviate poverty.</i>
Social mobility	<i>Movement up and down the social strata or layers.</i>
Social stratification	<i>A hierarchy in which groups have different statuses and different levels of privilege.</i>
The caste system	<i>A closed stratification system in which people inherit their status, traditionally found in India.</i>



Social stratification and inequality (3.1–3.2)	Definitions
Underclass	<i>A group below the working class that is effectively marginalised from the rest of society.</i>
Welfare state	<i>The way in which governments try to provide for the less well-off and reduce social inequality by providing key services.</i>