

Specimen Response for Study Theme 3A

STUDY THEME 3A: THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Question

To what extent do different groups lead separate and unequal lives?

(15 marks)

Response

In 1994 the GNU (Government of National Unity) inherited a legacy of social and economic inequality from Apartheid. Affirmative Action and other programmes to even things out have included many policies over the years like the Reconstruction and Redevelopment Programme (RDP) Growth Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) and the Black Economic Empowerment Act (BEE) of 2003. They have tried to encourage hiring and promoting Black employees, the creation of jobs, building new homes - 1 million in 5 years and redistributing 30% of the land in 5 years. BEE aims to help the economy to grow by helping black businesses. It is also supposed to help disadvantaged Black people like women, the young, disabled people and people in rural areas.

There have been some successes. As a result of BEE nearly 300,000 Blacks became middle income earners between 2002 and 2005. This added to an already big Black middle class which had grown since the end of Apartheid. One million low cost homes have been built but it took longer than expected. There is a free health care program for children and pregnant women. In 2000 a huge health care program meant that all children under 5 got polio and measles jags. Thousands of clinics have been build and there are mobile clinics to reach out of the way areas. The number of pupils who pass their grade 7 exams rose by over 20% between 1999 and 2004.

However there have been failures too. Free education for all has not been achieved. There is a massive shortage of teachers, thousands have died from AIDS in recent years. Over 20% of Blacks still don't get to school but almost all whites do. And although schools are meant to be mixed no white children attend poor Black schools maybe because no white children live in poor Black areas.

There are 1 million AIDS orphans and this wasn't helped by the delay in releasing anti-AIDS drugs. UN statistics show that 50% of the S. African population is living below the poverty line and 90% are Black. Wealth remains mainly in white hands although there are signs of poverty among whites. 7% of whites are poor and they have nowhere to go. Although there is a growing Black middle class whites still dominate the rich suburbs.

Land reform was introduced with a target of 30% of land to be transferred back to Black ownership in 5 years. However this has failed to be achieved. 60,000 whites own 80% of the land and 14 million Blacks remain landless in squatter camps and Homelands. In July 2005 the South African government announced that the policy of land reform had failed. In 10 years only 1% of the land had been transferred.

One of the worst things mostly affecting Blacks is the crime rate which is hitting poor black areas the most but is affecting the whole country. Many statistics show worse rates than the worst parts of the USA especially murder and rape. There are 55,000 rapes per year.

There has been some progress in trying to get equality for the different groups. There is a growing Black middle class but the poorest people have seen a drop in their income of as much as 20%. White incomes have grown by 20%. Some groups like women and poor whites are worse off sometimes because of ill health or unemployment.

Most whites and the Black middle classes live much better lives than the majority of South Africans.

Specimen Response for Study Theme 3A

STUDY THEME 3A: THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Question

To what extent do different groups lead separate and unequal lives?

(15 marks)

Developed, exemplified, balanced and analytical answers may refer to:

- ◆ groups still tend to live apart despite no longer being forced to
- ◆ poverty rate highest for Blacks (56.3%) and lowest for Whites (6.9%)
- ◆ Blacks constitute the poorest group of the population, making up over 90% of the 21.9 million poor
- ◆ Whites still own 80% of land; land transfer still incomplete
- ◆ 22% Blacks without schooling whereas only 4% Whites are
- ◆ unemployment highest for Blacks ((50%)
- ◆ lower unemployment for Asians due to higher completion rate of Grade 12 schooling
- ◆ new “poor” Whites come almost entirely from the Afrikaner community who make up 60% of the white population
- ◆ Whites control 90% of the economy
- ◆ black economic empowerment (BEE)
- ◆ existence of black elite reflects no fundamental change in economic power
- ◆ increased access to fresh water, electricity and homes for many Blacks
- ◆ claims that Blacks are getting poorer while Whites are getting richer
- ◆ recent increase in the Gini coefficient
- ◆ health differences
- ◆ impact of crime
- ◆ gender inequalities
- ◆ other relevant points.

‘Achieve’ answers must feature both knowledge and understanding and analysis.

Comments on Specimen Answer to Study Theme 3A

The candidate displays sound knowledge and understanding with good, recent exemplification. There is, however, a strong indication that the candidate has tried to 'turn' the question, answering one based on government attempts to reduce inequalities rather than the extent to which different groups lead separate and unequal lives. As a result, although many of the statistics in the opening paragraphs are very good, they are not linked directly to the question. The answer really starts with paragraph 3 and there is some good analysis. The paragraph dealing with crime is weak. The candidate fails to develop important points e.g. that different groups still tend to live apart although no longer being forced to do so, that the white population still controls the economy, that there are gender differences and there is no mention of groups other than Blacks and Whites.

This is an able candidate who has not used the information to best effect. One strength is the currency of the information and exemplification.

10/15