

## Chapter 15 Health inequalities and public health practice – questions

### Self assessment

#### Question 1 of 4

Which of the following is false?

- A) In developed countries, men tend to die younger than women
- B) Worldwide, women tend to experience more ill health throughout their lives
- C) Health inequalities are a result of the unequal distribution of power, goods and services
- D) All health inequalities are positively associated with poverty
- E) Strong social networks have a protective effect on health

#### Question 2 of 4

How big is the difference in life expectancy in men between different countries within WHO Europe?

- A) A twofold difference
- B) Nearly 20 years
- C) Five years
- D) Six months
- E) 16 years, seven months

#### Question 3 of 4

What is the approximate difference in under-fives mortality between countries in the WHO European region?

- A) Twofold
- B) 30-fold
- C) Eightfold
- D) 50-fold
- E) Sixfold

#### Question 4 of 4

How many years of life are lost in England each year as a result of health inequalities?

- A) 3–4 million
- B) 0.5–1.1 million
- C) 100,000–400,000
- D) 2.0–3.6 million
- E) 1.3–2.5 million

### Short answer questions

#### Question 1 of 4

Describe the social determinants of health and health inequalities.

## Question 2 of 4

In what ways can governments reduce health inequalities?

## Question 3 of 4

Explain what is meant by the statement that 'health inequalities show a gradient across societies'?

## Question 4 of 4

What do you understand by Sen's concept of 'capabilities'?

### Interactive exercise

From the following link, access the health profiles of Luton and South Cambridgeshire, both in the East of England.

<http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=49802>

How do the two profiles compare? What are the possible reasons for the differences? Name three actions to address the issues identified.

### Web resources and further reading

World Health Organization project on inequalities in health in Europe	<a href="http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/data-and-evidence/equity-in-health">http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/data-and-evidence/equity-in-health</a>
World Health Organization on social determinants of health	<a href="http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/">http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/</a>
Website for Michael Marmot's reviews of inequalities in England and in Europe	<a href="http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/">http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/</a>
Statistics covering topics related to UK health inequalities	<a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/health-social-care/health-of-the-population/health-inequalities">http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/health-social-care/health-of-the-population/health-inequalities</a>
Portal for information on European health inequalities	<a href="http://www.health-inequalities.eu/HEALTH-EQUITY/EN/home/">http://www.health-inequalities.eu/HEALTH-EQUITY/EN/home/</a>
English Public Health Observatory work on measuring health inequalities	<a href="http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/National_Lead_Areas/HealthInequalities.aspx">http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/National_Lead_Areas/HealthInequalities.aspx</a>
Guide to measuring inequalities (2007)	<a href="http://www.scotpho.org.uk/home/Publications/scotphoreports/pub_measuringinequalities.aspx">http://www.scotpho.org.uk/home/Publications/scotphoreports/pub_measuringinequalities.aspx</a>
Diabetes and the disadvantaged: reducing health inequalities in the UK	<a href="http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Documents/Reports/Diabetes_disadvantaged_Nov2006.pdf">http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Documents/Reports/Diabetes_disadvantaged_Nov2006.pdf</a>
Tackling inequalities in mental health – a case study	<a href="http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/downloads/reports/RR34.pdf">http://extra.shu.ac.uk/ndc/downloads/reports/RR34.pdf</a>