

ECONOMICS WITH PROF SAYANTAN GHOSAL

TALKING POINTS

1. According to the Children's Society, over four million children are currently living in poverty in the UK. What do you think are the reasons for poverty in your country?
2. Which of the reasons you list above are based on your experience, facts or stigma?
3. What do you understand by "the cycle of poverty"? In what ways is the cycle of poverty relevant to Sayantan's investigations?
4. Which two things can be broadly thought of as the capacity to aspire?
5. What do you aspire to be when you're older? What do you imagine to be the barriers to that aspiration? How might those barriers compare to those of your friends?
6. Why are economists well-placed to help us understand the perspectives of those in poverty?
7. In what ways is maths useful in dealing with subjects such as poverty?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

THE STACK OF THE DECK:

AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY

This activity from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops illustrates how a person's background, experiences and choices can impact his or her opportunities and economic status. All you need are:

- Three decks of cards
- A dry erase board or flip chart
- A dry erase or flip chart markers
- Three volunteers

One of the volunteers will play the banker. The remaining two represent people from different backgrounds: one has been born into a low-income, working class family in a poor neighbourhood; the other has been born into an affluent, white-collar family in a suburban neighbourhood. Visit the website to find out various factors such as environment, education, nutrition, parenting and discrimination affects the volunteers' game playing experience: <http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/stack-of-the-deck.cfm>

MORE RESOURCES

- Read the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's 100 Questions that, if answered, would help to reduce or prevent poverty:
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/100-questions-about-poverty>
- Find out as much as you can about Arjun Appadurai and his work on different cultures and why it matters for the development and reduction of poverty.
- The Economics Network features a range of games and other activities for the budding economist. Look around the site and see which of its six games interest you.