



This test measures your ability to comprehend written materials.

EXAM CODE: PP-120626

TIME: 70 minutes

DIRECTIONS:

Read the passage carefully and, for each question, choose the one best answer (A, B, C or D) based on what is stated in the passage or on what can be inferred from the passage. Then mark the letter on your answer sheet that matches the letter of the answer that you have selected.

(5 points each correct answer)

New UN Report Warns of Global Social Crisis Driven by Insecurity, Inequality and Distrust

1. Economic insecurity, **staggering** levels of inequality, declining social trust and social fragmentation are destabilizing societies worldwide. The World Social Report 2025, released today, reveals trends that are threatening communities and demand immediate, decisive policy action. The report calls for a new policy consensus anchored in **three principles** — equity, economic security for all and solidarity — that are essential to strengthen the three dimensions of sustainable development.
2. Despite significant gains in poverty reduction, many people teeter on the **brink** of poverty, even as **they** move up the income ladder. Over 2.8 billion people — more than a third of the global population — live on US\$2.15 to US\$6.85 a day. Even a minor setback can push people into extreme poverty, and any reprieves are often temporary. Employment precariousness is widespread, deepening economic uncertainties. Around 60 per cent of people globally are concerned about losing their jobs and being unable to find new ones.
3. At the same time, 65 per cent of the world's population is living in countries where income inequality is growing. A large share of total income inequality can still be attributed to inequality based on characteristics such as race, caste, place of birth and family background. Without urgent action, leaving no one behind will remain a distant goal by 2030 unless progress accelerates.
4. Rising insecurity and inequality are undermining social cohesion and straining the foundations of solidarity and multilateralism. Over half of the global population has little or no trust in their government. Alarming, trust levels have been declining from one cohort to the next, indicating a systemic breakdown of social cohesion. The rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation is exacerbating these troubling trends.
5. While recent crises have brought insecurity and distrust into sharp focus, the report emphasizes that **these** social challenges run deep and have been building over decades. “As the World Social Report 2025 shows, inequality, insecurity, and deep distrust are rife across the world. Countless people are struggling to make ends meet, while wealth and power concentrate at the top. Climate disasters, along with economic shocks and conflict, continue to erase hard-won development gains, all while new technologies are creating new possibilities but dividing people. Such challenges demand collective solutions”, said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. Overcoming these challenges — and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — will require fundamental shifts in policy, institutions, norms and mindsets.
6. “Ultimately, the report calls for an assessment of policy approaches. Current institutions and policy frameworks are being outpaced by societal transformations. Sustaining progress towards the SDGs requires breaking the vicious cycle of insecurity, low trust and shrinking policy space. Governments and the international community must critically evaluate how economic and social policies are falling short — or even exacerbating insecurity”, said United Nations Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua.
7. **(A)** The upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar from 4 to 6 November 2025, will offer a crucial platform for governments to assess progress and take concrete action to address these critical social challenges. **(B)** The World Social Report is the flagship publication of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on social development issues. **(C)** It serves as a background document for discussion and policy analysis of socio-economic matters at the intergovernmental

level. It identifies emerging social trends of global concern and analyzes relationships among major development issues with international and national dimensions. (D)

8. The 2025 report is the first to be co-produced with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER). This collaboration brings new research insights into the report, particularly on the far-reaching impacts of inequality and declining trust.

Source: <https://unu.edu/press-release/new-un-report-warns-global-social-crisis-driven-insecurity-inequality-and-distrust>

1. According to paragraph 1, what is the main focus of the World Social Report 2025?
A) It outlines major threats to societies and urges immediate policy action.
B) It compares economic growth patterns across different global regions.
C) It explains how technology improves cooperation between nations.
D) It presents environmental strategies to reduce climate risks.
2. The word “*staggering*” in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to
A) surprising B) overwhelming C) gradual D) unclear
3. Why does the author mention the “*three principles*” in paragraph 1?
A) To criticize current models of economic development.
B) To contrast different political approaches to growth.
C) To show disagreement among global institutions.
D) To establish a basis for future policy decisions.
4. What does paragraph 2 indicate about people living on US\$2.15 to US\$6.85 a day?
A) They remain at risk of falling into extreme poverty.
B) They are steadily moving out of poverty in most regions.
C) They are largely protected from sudden economic shocks.
D) They experience stable and secure income growth over time.
5. The word “*they*” in paragraph 2 refers to
A) economic systems C) many people
B) income levels D) policy measures
6. The word “*brink*” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to
A) center B) edge C) base D) result
7. What can be inferred from paragraph 2 about global employment conditions?
A) Workers feel secure about their long-term employment prospects.
B) Employment concerns are limited to poorer nations.
C) Job opportunities are expanding rapidly worldwide.
D) Many people worry about losing their jobs.
8. Why does paragraph 3 include references to race and family background?
A) To demonstrate that growth removes social differences.
B) To suggest these factors are no longer significant today.
C) To argue inequality results mainly from individual effort.
D) To show that inequality is shaped by structural conditions.
9. What does paragraph 4 suggest about declining trust across cohorts?
A) Trust is steadily decreasing over time.
B) Trust varies unpredictably between generations.
C) Governments have restored public trust successfully.
D) Younger groups are regaining confidence in institutions.
10. Why does the author mention misinformation and disinformation in paragraph 4?
A) To explain a factor that increases distrust.
B) To argue that digital media has limited influence.
C) To highlight benefits of rapid information exchange.
D) To show that communication systems are improving.
11. Which option best restates the idea of paragraph 5?
A) These issues have developed gradually over time.
B) Recent crises fully explain current social problems.
C) Stability has prevented serious long-term problems.
D) Social challenges emerged suddenly in recent years.

12. The word “these” in paragraph 5 refers to
- A) recent crises
 - B) social challenges
 - C) policy strategies
 - D) economic shifts
13. Why is António Guterres quoted in paragraph 5?
- A) To present new data supporting the report’s claims.
 - B) To introduce a contrasting opinion on inequality.
 - C) To strengthen the report’s message and urgency.
 - D) To describe how the research was conducted.
14. Which sentence best expresses the essential information in paragraph 6?
- A) Institutions are unrelated to social outcomes.
 - B) Progress depends only on global cooperation.
 - C) Policy reforms are unnecessary for development.
 - D) Solving these problems requires major policy changes.
15. Why does paragraph 6 describe a “vicious cycle”?
- A) To argue insecurity is unrelated to trust.
 - B) To suggest reforms have already succeeded.
 - C) To show how problems reinforce one another.
 - D) To emphasize institutional stability worldwide.
16. Which option best restates the idea of paragraph 6?
- A) Policy frameworks are no longer relevant.
 - B) Policies are fully adapted to social change.
 - C) Institutions struggle to keep up with change.
 - D) Governments have solved key economic issues.
17. There are four locations in the passage marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Where would the following sentence best fit?
- “This meeting is expected to shape future global social policies.”*
18. What is the main purpose of the passage?
- A) To argue that previous UN reports lacked statistical reliability.
 - B) To suggest that economic inequality is mainly an academic concern.
 - C) To emphasize that the 2025 report includes broader research expertise.
 - D) To explain why international organizations often disagree on policy goals.
19. Which statement best summarizes the overall message of the passage?
- A) Economic growth has reduced inequality in many regions.
 - B) Challenges are interconnected and need systemic change.
 - C) Social conditions are steadily improving across countries.
 - D) Technological progress can solve most social divisions.
20. How is the passage mainly structured?
- A) By presenting issues, causes, and responses.
 - B) By comparing outcomes in different regions.
 - C) By describing historical developments in policy.
 - D) By outlining technological progress and impacts.

GABARITO COM PARÁGRAFOS E EXPLICAÇÕES

1. (A) — Parágrafo 1
O relatório apresenta ameaças graves às sociedades, como insegurança econômica, desigualdade e perda de confiança, e pede ação política imediata.
2. (B) — Parágrafo 1
“Staggering” significa algo muito grande, impressionante ou esmagador. Aqui, refere-se aos níveis extremamente altos de desigualdade.
3. (D) — Parágrafo 1
Os três princípios — equidade, segurança econômica e solidariedade — são apresentados como base para futuras decisões e políticas.
4. (A) — Parágrafo 2
Mesmo pessoas que estão acima da pobreza extrema continuam vulneráveis: um pequeno problema econômico pode levá-las à pobreza extrema.
5. (C) — Parágrafo 2
“They” (“elas”) refere-se a “many people” (“muitas pessoas”), que estão perto da linha da pobreza.
6. (B) — Parágrafo 2
“Brink” significa “beira” ou “limite”. A expressão “on the brink of poverty” quer dizer “à beira da pobreza”.
7. (D) — Parágrafo 2
Cerca de 60% das pessoas no mundo se preocupam em perder o emprego e não conseguir outro, mostrando insegurança no trabalho.
8. (D) — Parágrafo 3
As referências à raça, casta, local de nascimento e origem familiar mostram que a desigualdade é influenciada por condições estruturais da sociedade.
9. (A) — Parágrafo 4
O texto afirma que os níveis de confiança vêm diminuindo de uma geração para outra.
10. (A) — Parágrafo 4
A desinformação e as informações falsas são mencionadas porque agravam a falta de confiança e a fragmentação social.
11. (A) — Parágrafo 5
Os problemas sociais não surgiram de repente; eles vêm se acumulando e se desenvolvendo ao longo de décadas.
12. (B) — Parágrafo 5
“These” (“esses”) refere-se aos desafios sociais mencionados anteriormente, como insegurança, desigualdade e desconfiança.
13. (C) — Parágrafo 5
A citação de António Guterres reforça a mensagem do relatório e destaca a urgência de buscar soluções coletivas.
14. (D) — Parágrafo 6
O parágrafo defende mudanças importantes nas políticas e instituições para enfrentar os problemas sociais e avançar nos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável.
15. (C) — Parágrafo 6
“Vicious cycle” (“ciclo vicioso”) mostra que insegurança, baixa confiança e pouco espaço para políticas públicas alimentam e pioram uns aos outros.
16. (C) — Parágrafo 6
As instituições e os modelos de políticas não estão conseguindo acompanhar as rápidas transformações da sociedade.

17. **(B)** — Parágrafo 7

A frase deve vir depois da informação sobre a próxima cúpula em Doha, pois “This meeting” (“Essa reunião”) refere-se à cúpula mencionada na frase anterior.

18. **(C)** — Parágrafo 8

Esta é a alternativa mais próxima: o texto menciona que o relatório de 2025 foi produzido pela primeira vez em colaboração com a UNU-WIDER, trazendo uma pesquisa mais ampla.

Observação: a pergunta parece ter alternativas incompletas, porque o objetivo central do texto é alertar para a crise social global e defender mudanças nas políticas públicas.

19. **(B)** — Texto inteiro

A mensagem geral é que insegurança, desigualdade e desconfiança estão interligadas e exigem mudanças estruturais e soluções coletivas.

20. **(A)** — Texto inteiro

O texto apresenta os problemas sociais, explica fatores que os agravam e propõe respostas, como reformas políticas, colaboração e ações coletivas.