

**WRITING**

# **PARAPHRASES**

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2008/09

**Below are some sentences from** Extract III (*Attitudes to social services*). **Rewrite them using your own words and style – i.e. write a paraphrase for each of them:**

Lines 1-2: *While most Americans today are successful, independent and provide for themselves, some do not succeed, have varied problems and need help.*

**OPTION 1:** *Nowadays, many Americans have a job and economical independence to maintain themselves and their families. But there are others who don't and who need assistance.*

**OPTION 2:** *Many Americans nowadays work and enjoy an economical independence that allows them to care for themselves and their families. However, this is not so for all the population.*

**OPTION 3: ...**

Lines 7-10: *Occasional Gallup opinion polls on the causes of poverty consistently show that one-third of Americans feel that people are poor or become poor due to their own lack of effort; one-third think that people are poor because of circumstances beyond their control; and one-third think that poverty stems from a mixture of both reasons.*

**OPTION 1:** *According to results yielded by recent opinion polls, around a 33% of Americans feel that people become poor because they don't try hard enough to succeed; another 33% feel that people may not necessarily be responsible for their own poverty; and a final 33% consider that poverty may be due to both reasons above.*

**OPTION 2:** *Results yielded by recent opinion polls show that, according to a third of Americans, poverty is caused by a personal inability to earn economic independence and success, unlike another third who are of the opinion that poverty is due to circumstances which escape our control. The rest of Americans believe that both personal inability and external circumstances contribute to poverty.*

**OPTION 3: ...**

Lines 11-12 & 24-27: *On one level, the social services debate in the US is concerned with the problems of the needy and the poor [...] But the debate is not only about the poor and needy. It also involves the question of whether the US should adopt a nationally organized European-type 'welfare state', which would provide comprehensive social and medical schemes for all, funded out of general taxation.*

**OPTION 1:** *In the US, one side of the social services debate is how to cope with the problems and needs of the poor. The other is whether a European-like, publicly funded system of health, medical, and social provision should be introduced.*

**OPTION 2:...**

Lines 41-43: Nevertheless, public social services in the US have expanded relatively successfully since the 1930s; absolute poverty has declined; living standards have risen generally; greater public expectations have been created; and social institutions have developed.

**OPTION 1:** *Even so, public social services have undergone considerable expansion since the third decade of the past century, there is less poverty and, on the whole, people live much better than they used to. Social institutions have also improved substantially.*

(However / Nonetheless / Still / Yet)

**OPTION 2:** ...

Lines 44-45: *But relative poverty and need still exists and the number of people on welfare has grown since the 1950s.*

**OPTION 1:** *Some degree of poverty still exists, however, and there are nowadays more people living on welfare than in the 1950s.*

**OPTION 2:** ...

Lines 54-55: *Historically, American public social services have expanded in the face of opposition but some recent developments seem to be regressive.*

**OPTION 1:** *Throughout history, Americans have always been opposed to public social services (financed with money from their taxes), and they do so to even a further degree nowadays.*

**OPTION 2:** ...