



Redistribution: Does It Work? | Worksheet

Matching

Match the definition in Column A with the term in Column B.

Column A

- _____ Graph showing income equality or inequality.
- _____ Ability to move up or down economically.
- _____ Moving money from earners to non-earners.
- _____ Government aid given without expectations in return.
- _____ How money is spread out in a population.
- _____ Number that measures income inequality in society.

Column B

- a. Distribution of Income
- b. Wealth Redistribution
- c. Lorenz Curve
- d. Gini Coefficient
- e. Transfer Payments
- f. Social Mobility

Multiple Choice

1. **Why does income inequality still exist even in economies with heavy government control?**
 - a. Governments never try hard enough to eliminate inequality.
 - b. Some people are naturally more deserving of wealth than others.
 - c. Skills, choices, and effort vary among individuals, even in controlled economies.
 - d. Free-market economies always influence global wealth trends.
2. **What is one risk the video associates with government transfer payments?**
 - a. They lead to more fair outcomes across all income levels.
 - b. They create jobs by moving money between groups.
 - c. They make the economy more efficient by streamlining transactions.
 - d. They reduce motivation for people to work or improve skills.
3. **Why does government redistribution often fail to change income distribution in a lasting way?**
 - a. The government keeps most of the redistributed money for itself.
 - b. Wealthy people adapt by taking their capital elsewhere.
 - c. People eventually stop needing assistance.
 - d. Redistribution is illegal in most economies.
4. **Which statement best compares redistribution in free-market vs. command economies?**
 - a. In both systems, redistribution eliminates inequality completely.
 - b. Free-market redistribution encourages fairness, while command redistribution does not.
 - c. Free-market economies attempt redistribution through taxes, while command economies use government control of wealth and production.
 - d. Redistribution works best in economies that remove all competition.

Application

Many people say wealth redistribution is like Robin Hood—"taking from the rich to give to the poor." Based on what you learned in the video, do you agree or disagree with that comparison? Why? Use at least two vocabulary terms to support your answer.



Scan to watch episode:

Redistribution: Does It Work? | Answer Key

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- f. Ability to move up or down economically.
- b. Moving money from earners to non-earners.
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Sample Answer Key:

*I disagree. In the story of Robin Hood, he takes from corrupt rulers who overtaxed the poor. But in real life, **wealth redistribution** is usually done through **transfer payments**, where the government collects taxes and gives money or services to others. The video also showed that this can hurt **social mobility** because people may stop working as hard if they know they'll get help no matter what.*

Guidance for Grading

- ☐ **Position Stated Clearly (Agree or Disagree):** The student should take a clear stance on whether wealth redistribution is like Robin Hood.
- ☐ **Accurate Use of at Least Two Vocabulary Terms:** The student should correctly use at least two vocabulary terms in a way that supports their argument. Strong responses may include:
 - ☐ *Transfer Payments* – described as government aid without requiring anything in return.
 - ☐ *Social Mobility* – explained as how redistribution affects motivation or long-term advancement.
 - ☐ *Wealth Redistribution* – defined as moving money from high earners to non-earners, often through taxes.
 - ☐ *Distribution of Income* – discussed in terms of fairness or how income is spread across a population.
- ☐ **Connection to Video Content:** The student should refer to an idea from the video—such as the inefficiency of redistribution, how it affects incentives, or how wealth redistribution differs from heroic theft in a fairy tale.
- ☐ **Thoughtful Reasoning:** The response should show the student understands that the comparison is not just about “giving to the poor,” but about how redistribution functions in real economic systems.