

Candidate 9 evidence

3.	
A.	
a)	<p>It could be said that social inequality affects some citizens more than others, because of the "groups" evident in UK society. For instance, social inequality affects those who smoke, drink, are obese, are women, and live in poverty - respectively. In the essay to follow, I will evaluate how each of these groups in society are effected by inequality.</p>
	<p>People who smoke are effected by inequality as they are likely to live shorter lives and experience greater ill health. In Scotland, smoking rates are over 30% higher than England or Wales, and 13,000 Scots die annually as a direct result. Lung Cancer rates are 50% higher in Scotland than the rest of the UK, a study has found. It can therefore be said that smoking makes health worse, and so makes life unequal to non-smoking counterparts.</p>

Similarly, drinking rates in Scotland are far higher than England or Wales. The UK sees ~~13~~ 13 alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 deaths every year, while the impoverished area of Nitshill sees 76 per 100,000. Alcohol misuse kills 40 Scots every week. 2/3 of alcohol-related deaths in Scotland occur in the most deprived areas. This makes it evident that alcohol misuse is a factor which creates social inequality - because those who drink experience premature death more than those who do not. This means that the population of non-binge-drinkers could be said to be healthier and more active, which is unfair for those addicted to alcohol, and so makes their lives unequal in a social context.

3,000 Scots die every year as a direct result of their obesity - whether through heart disease, kidney failure or diabetes, among other illnesses. Obese people

must not only contend with numerous health risks but also a social stigma which marks them out as ugly, undesirable or not "normal". The Equally Well Report 2008 stated that Scotland must promote exercise if it was to reduce the "Big Three killers" - heart disease, cancer and stroke. While some may say this has improved, the social inequality and humiliation faced by obese people has not ended, and continues to create a disparity in value of life for them.

Women in society have always been (somewhat) unequal to men. The 'glass ceiling' effect prevents them from getting to top positions, such as CEO or managing director, of multi-national companies, while their income in such high-end jobs is still as much as 15% less than males'. Lack of female representation in politics is decreasing - notably with Scotland's current first minister,

Nicola Sturgeon's help. However, being discriminated against at work should be illegal (Equality Act 2010) and 1 in 4 women returning to work after maternity leave is the subject of discrimination on the grounds of gender. The Equality Act also ensures equal pay for equal work between men and women - which I have shown is not the case. In this respect, socially, women are still unequal to men.

Those living in poverty face extreme social inequality. Unable to afford the "current trends," gadgets, technology, clothes and brands, they become isolated. They cannot go on nights out because they have no money, and cannot improve their situation, in many cases. Many become dependent on benefits, realising that to work is to pay tax and even receive less than your benefits - and so they lose the incentive to work. This means that they are trapped

In their cycle, and may not become financially independent. Moreover, poverty increases the risk of premature death. To illustrate ~~rate~~^{rate} this - the life expectancy in middle/upper-class Lenzie is 82 compared with the impoverished Calton in Glasgow which is 54. This is less than the life expectancy in the Gaza Strip, which effectively demonstrates how important a factor in promoting social inequality poverty is.

While each of these groups in society are effected more than others by social inequality, it could be argued that the healthy, wealthy male is still threatened by social inequality. If at any point his lifestyle changes unexpectedly, he may find himself in one of these groups.

To conclude, it may be said that poverty is the factor - and so the impoverished are the group-

	which experience the most inequality in UK society.	
	as many other categories may be associated with this	
	one.	