

## Wealth and Poverty



### What this topic covers

Wealth is often connected to having abundance, yet the experience of wealth is different for people around the world. For some, wealth provides security, comfort and sustainability, but for others, it creates instability, scarcity, and poverty. In this topic, you will explore diverse concepts of wealth, how it is created and shared, and the impact these concepts and systems can have on the world.

**By the end of this topic you will have prepared for dialogue with your peers by:**



#### Active Listening

Listening to stories from others about different definitions and beliefs surrounding the concepts of wealth.



#### Reflection

Reflecting on your own definitions of wealth and how they are similar or different to others.



#### Global Communication

Practicing ways to challenge concepts and systems of wealth by sharing your own perspectives and opinions respectfully.



#### Asking Questions

Choosing questions that seek deeper understanding to learn about the way the wealth gap exists in your own and others communities.



#### Critical Thinking

Thinking critically about systems that create and transmit wealth and poverty, and the way they influence communities.

This learning module on average takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete

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## What is wealth?



Around the world, wealth is believed to be an abundance of material, immaterial, and/or spiritual gain. The way wealth is defined can be related to the different values that we hold, and this creates differences in what people strive for in life. Read these posts below to learn about four different concepts of wealth and why they are important.

### Wealth as Money



Student **GenG** 28 minutes ago

Hi! To me being wealthy means having the necessary means to live a comfortable life. Probably that means money, in practical terms. But I also think that it's important to share some of our wealth with others that are not in our same situation. I believe the concept of Dharma in Hinduism shaped my view of wealth. It means that everyone has a moral obligation to help others that are in need. This doesn't mean that a rich person cannot be religious. It all depends on how you use your money, and your individual actions.



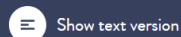
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### Wealth as Health



Student **GenG** 3 hours ago

Hey! Wealth to me has a very strong connection with health. If you are healthy you can do and enjoy more things in life. I think we are blessed to live in this planet, so we should try to always strive to get better. I have heard many times the saying "a healthy mind in a healthy body" and I believe it's true, but this should also mean having good mental health, and having access to knowledge and experiences that can help you grow. So, to me wealth is having a good physical and mental health, and being able and curious to learn and experience new things.



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### Wealth as Freedom



Student **GenG** 28 minutes ago

Wealth is a very wide concept. When I think about it, I imagine that a wealthy

person is someone who is free to do what they want. They are free to only spend their time doing what makes them happy. I don't know if that can always be the case, as for example, in order to do something that you truly enjoy you must be good at it, so that requires practice – which might not be that fun at the beginning – but ultimately you can decide what you want to do. It's about having different options, and not be forced to do boring or unpleasant things just to make enough money to survive. Money can help you emancipate, but on its own it's worthless.


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## Wealth as Relationships

— “ —

Student  5 hours ago

It's easy to say wealth is only about money, but I think wealth is also about relationships. It's about being in the position to make great friends, whom you can have fun with, and that can help you when you're in need. Having great people around you is important to give life a meaning. I do believe that true wealth is not measured in money or power, but in what we leave behind for the world, and for those we love. Reflecting on this made me think of that famous quote "happiness is only real when shared", which I believe is very true.

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Back

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## What is wealth?



### What does wealth mean to you?

Think about the four concepts of wealth you read in the posts. Move the slider below to rate how much you believe each of these concepts are important markers of wealth in your life.

Wealth as Money



Wealth as Health



Wealth as Freedom



Wealth as Relationships



Continue

 Back

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## Reflecting on wealth



### What is your concept of wealth?

Reflect on your own ideas, beliefs and values of wealth. Write what wealth means to you in the box below and why this is important. Give an example from your own life or community.

Enter your thoughts here...

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## Reflecting on wealth



### What is your concept of wealth?

Reflect on your own ideas, beliefs and values of wealth. Write what wealth means to you in the box below and why this is important. Give an example from your own life or community.

Enter your thoughts here...

You may have noticed that wealth is complex and that we can have multiple beliefs about what wealth looks like in our life at the same time! Our perspectives on wealth can also change over time. Explore the complexity of wealth in your life further by asking your family and friends about their concepts of wealth and what values shape their beliefs. Do you share the same beliefs?

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## Systems for creating and distributing wealth



Transactions of wealth are based on shared practices that people must participate in to keep the system functioning. These systems can look differently across communities and cultures, but globalisation has gradually standardised ways of organising the interchange of goods, services, money and other exchanges of value. Watch this video to learn about the four essential types of economy that are most common in the world and how they influence the global system.

### Types of Economic Systems

University Now/National University System - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xgwYRX19VU>



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## Systems for creating and distributing wealth



Which system best relates to your own concepts of wealth?

Think about the four types of economic structures mentioned in the previous video. Choose which system relates best to your own concepts of wealth.

Traditional – Based on culture and rituals, everyone participates for sustainability and relies on the community

Command – Relies on government to make all economic decisions about creation and transactions of wealth and resources

Market – Consumers determine how industries, wealth, and resources are created and shared

Mixed – Limited government involvement to regulate transactions while applying free market principles

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## Different values, different systems



How does your own concept of wealth differ from some of these systems?

Practice challenging different systems of wealth and economy by choosing one of the sentence starters to help you express your perspective respectfully. Write your perspective below. These are some suggestions for how you can start your reflection:

- In my opinion...
- That is an interesting idea, I believe...
- Thank you for sharing, in my experience...
- I am interested to explore the differences, have you considered...

Enter your thoughts here...

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## Different values, different systems



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Enter your thoughts here...

The creation and distribution of wealth is a process that requires different kinds of rules, interactions, and shared agreements among people. Dialogue is an important tool in helping communities to understand each other's values, needs, and ideas for making systems that can work for all.

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## The Wealth Gap



Systems of economy and the transaction of wealth are important for a society's ability to grow and thrive, however, these systems are not without problems. With an unequal and inequitable system of wealth, large gaps form between those who have wealth and those who do not, thus creating scarcity and poverty. Read the data below to learn about the wealth gap that billions of people around the world suffer from every day.



# THE WEALTH GAP



In 2022, the richest 10% of the global population owned 76% of all wealth.

Source: <https://wir2022.wid.world/executive-summary/>



Hunger kills over 2.1 million people a year at a minimum.

Source: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/5-shocking-facts-about-extreme-global-inequality-and-how-even-it>



Across 111 countries, 1.2 billion


Every day, women and girls around the world work for a combined 12.5 billion hours for free.

Source: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/5-shocking-facts-about-inequality-according-to-oxfam-s-latest-report/>

people live in acute multidimensional poverty\*. Half of these people (593 million) are children under age 18.

Source: <https://ophi.org.uk/global-mpi-2022/>

\*Multidimensional Poverty is a variety of impact people living in poverty experience, including poor health, lack of education, threat of violence, access to food and clean water, and unsafe working conditions to name a few.)

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 Back

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## The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

*How does the wealth gap impact your community?*

Strong Question

Weak Question

 Back

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## The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

*Don't you think poor people should just get a job?*

Strong Question

Weak Question

 Back

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## The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

What kinds of systems do you think the world needs to close the wealth gap?

Strong Question

Weak Question

 Back

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## The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

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*Isn't it true that wealthy people just don't care about everyone else?*

Strong Question

Weak Question



 Back

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## The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

*Has your family experienced the wealth gap and if so, how?*

Strong Question

Weak Question

 Back

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## The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

What does wealth mean to you?

Strong Question

Weak Question

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## Wealth and poverty post-pandemic



Along with initiatives like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #1: No Poverty, the world has made strides in reducing the wealth gap. In 2020, Covid-19 caused a great set-back to these efforts and widened the deep divides and issues that the wealth gap continues to create. Read these stories from around the globe to learn more about the impact of systems of wealth and poverty after the pandemic.



### Cost of living

(Photo by Karolina Grabowska from Pexels)

Christian is the fourth and youngest child in a family of five that lives in a big city. As a single mother, Christian's mom must take care of the family while also, working at a local manufacturing company where she earns the minimum wage.

Since last year, as inflation has hit the cost of living worldwide, Christian's family has had to cut back on the amount of food they can afford because prices have increased. Not only has food become expensive but also housing, utilities and public transportation.

Due to inflation, Christian and their family must make tough decisions about the quantity and quality of the food they eat, and this impacts their physical and mental well-being.

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### Lack of public infrastructure

(Photo by Pok Rie from Pexels)

Lorena and her family live near a river delta and during the rainy months the water can reach the street level making it uninhabitable for many families. Her neighbourhood and surrounding towns need a dam to prevent a disaster.

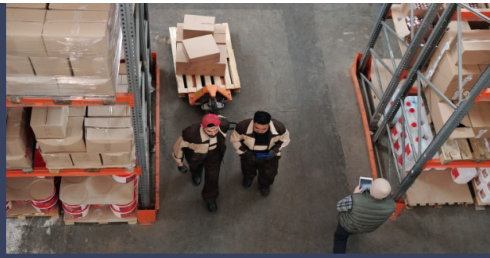
Her community has continuously asked the government to build a dam to prevent further floodings, but due to setbacks from the pandemic money that may have been used for infrastructure has been used for Covid-19 relief.

This situation has made it difficult for Lorena's family and the community, where feelings of uncertainty and despair keep growing.

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Yamil left his home 4 years ago to find a job in a richer country that allowed him to



## Migrant conditions

(Photo by Tiger Lily from [Pexels](#))

job in a richer country that allowed him to send some money back to his family, which was struggling financially.

When he first arrived, he lived with his uncle and his family, but eventually he had to find his own place. Housing has become very expensive during the recent years.

Currently he lives with 8 other people in a two-bedroom small house. He would like to find better living conditions, but the housing prices keep increasing and his salary is not enough to support himself and his family back home. He knows he could not afford rent, utilities and food with the cost of living.

Since he is not a citizen of the country he is living in, he is unable to receive support from the local government.



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\*Case studies are fictitious and do not represent any person.

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 Back

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## Wealth and poverty post-pandemic



### What actions would you take?

Reflect on the case studies. What actions would you take to reduce poverty and increase fairness? Write your reflection below.

Enter your thoughts here...

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## Wealth and poverty post-pandemic



### What actions would you take?

Reflect on the case studies. What actions would you take to reduce poverty and increase fairness? Write your reflection below.

Enter your thoughts here...

Wealth and poverty exist everywhere in the world and impact people's ability to live, sustain and thrive. Dialogue can support people and communities in coming together to understand each other's perspectives and experiences of wealth and poverty. By sharing our personal stories of impact and asking good questions, we can challenge and enrich our own views on wealth and poverty.

Continue

# Well done!



You completed

## Learning about wealth and poverty

Congratulations, you have earned the learning badge for Wealth and Poverty! In this module you have listened to diverse concepts of wealth, reflected on your own definitions, thought critically about the systems we live in that create wealth and poverty, and the impact on society.

You are now ready to enter the dialogue space to practise the core skills and talk about this important topic. When you have earned 30 XP in the space, you can then book into a live video conference to dialogue with your peers!

Enjoying the Ultimate Dialogue Adventure? Invite your friends to join you!

[Invite via email](#) - [Invite via WhatsApp](#)



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### Learning: Wealth and Poverty

You have earned the learning badge about Wealth and Poverty!