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In almost every society, there are always inequalities. As much as a government or group may try to eliminate them, most of the time they will still exist regardless. The idea of inequality between individuals is more prominent in Western society, than in Eastern and Oriental societies. This is caused by a couple of factors. One is the cultural upbringing of an individual. In Western society, we are brought up being told that we are superior to others around us. We are taught the inequalities of our society that include race, age, gender, religion, just as an example. In Eastern countries, because of different government systems and upbringing different inequalities exist. For example, in more communist societies, there is greater equality among the people.

In Australia, there are several groups that experience inequality within our society.

One of these groups is the underclass. This is the group that live below the poverty line. Their standard of living is poor. They struggle to have their basic needs met. This does not only include people that live out on the street, but

also includes those considered the working poor. This group is typically identified to as having a low education, low socioeconomic status and poor opportunities to gain employment. Because of this last factor, they are unable to gain ~~unemployment~~ experience to become employed. Their typically low education is sometimes what places them in this group to begin with. This leads to inequalities in a lot of facets of life. This includes employment opportunities, their ability to access services, and sometimes their ability to be a functioning member of society. Their poverty is a result of their low socioeconomic status. Family experiences and upbringing can also be a factor in determining them as a part of the underclass. For if an individual's family has lived in poverty, then they are probably not going to value socially valued resources such as school as much as others do.

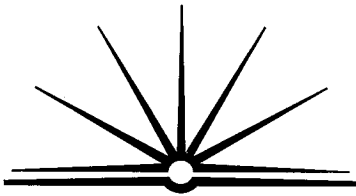
If these inequalities were to continue in Australian society, it wouldn't change or move forward in any way.

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However, this cycle would just keep repeating itself. If a parent of the underclass never had the opportunity of employment that someone of middle class had, they would have no chance for social mobility. They wouldn't be able to move through the classes. This in turn would create children that grow up in the underclass and the mindset of that class. They would probably not value education as much as people of higher classes would. Parents would have to rely on benefits, teaching their children that this is what is necessary, that employment cannot be gained, or is not something that they should achieve.

Alternatively, they could see this as a reason to make sure that there is organisations that can combat the poverty cycle, such as Oasis, run by volunteers of the Salvation Army. This would encourage Australians to break out of these inequality mindsets.

You may ask for an extra Writing Booklet if you need more space.



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There are many possible impacts of maintaining existing inequality for the underclass. It just depends on the view and individual choices to take.

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