Chapter 3
Topic 10 Sociology and social policy
Page 246
Activity: Discussion
Differing perspectives on policy

A. Divide into five groups. Each group will adopt one of the following perspectives on social policy: positivism and functionalism; the social democratic perspective; Marxism; feminism; the New Right. Read the sections in this Topic relating to your perspective **and** the other perspectives in the Topic.

B. Prepare a five-minute presentation on your perspective's explanation of social policy. Your aim is to show how your perspective explains social policy.

Here are some points to help you. Add as many more as you can.
1. What kinds of policies does your perspective support? Which kinds are they against?
2. What are the key concepts used by your perspective in relation to social policy?
3. Use examples from your own or other people's knowledge and experience to highlight key points.

C. Use your research to take part in a class discussion: 'Which perspective is most useful in understanding social policy?'

D. As a class, you need to vote on which perspective is most useful in understanding social policy. When deciding which way to vote, you must only consider the evidence presented during the discussion.

E. Individually, write your own summary of the class's discussion.