

GRAMMAR

Fast Food Industry

For questions, 1-8 read the text. Use the word given in brackets in the text to form a word that fits in the gap.

The impact of the **1** _____ (**GROW**) of the fast-food industry is having severe consequences on the eating habits and the health of many societies across the world. This is due to the high levels of fat and sugar contained in these types of food. With the rise of people with diabetes, high cholesterol, heart and respiratory problems, this is also causing severe strain on our hospitals to treat these **2** _____ (**MEDICINE**) conditions. So, what can be done to reduce this disturbing trend?

There are suggestions to introduce **3** _____ (**HIGH**) taxes on these types of food. This from an economic point of view seems like a sensible **4** _____ (**SOLVE**) as countries such as the USA, Australia and Britain spend a large part of their healthcare budgets on people with diet-related problems. Therefore, these taxes could help to fund their healthcare systems.

However, it is crucial that we consider, which socio-economic groups are **5** _____ (**CONSUME**) fast food as the primary source of their diet. Currently, statistics are indicating that lower-income groups are eating more of this food than wealthier people. It has been suggested that one possible reason for that is fast food is far **6** _____ (**CHEAP**) than fresh produce. This is because many governments **7** _____ (**CURRENT**) offer significant subsidies to farmers, who provide produce for fast food industries, such as corn, wheat and beef. Therefore, farmers can make higher profits on these products rather than on most of the fruit and vegetables which are not subsidized.

Research indicates that many families wouldn't be able to afford to buy **8** _____ (**HEALTH**) food or pay higher taxes on fast food. For them, fast food is not a choice, but a necessity. In conclusion, imposing a higher tax on fast food does not seem to be the answer. If governments chose to do this, it would only lead to greater poverty and for families to face further hardship.