Listening Ex. > An Increasing Social Problem

mp3 file

A. Listen to a lecture about poverty. Complete the summary below. USE NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

Poverty represents (0) ***one-third*** of the world's population. In fact, (1) _____ between rich and poor is getting bigger than ever. Most of the those in need live in developing countries, also known as (2) _____, especially in Asia and Africa. Nonetheless, this situation can be seen in (3) _____ as well. Over (4) _____ Americans lived in poverty in the late 1990s.

According to the speaker, an important question to address is '*Who are these poor people?*' If you are a woman, a(n) (5) _____ of a country, elderly, or a(n) (6) _____, you are more likely to live in need. To understand why some countries are more impoverished than others, there are many possible reasons that can explain it. For example, a country's (7) _____, poor soil and (8) _____, or the impact of natural disasters such as hurricanes and (9) _____ can significantly affect a country.

Another cause related to poverty may be linked to (10) _____. Some countries in Europe or North America experienced a(n) (11) _____ that made them wealthier while other nations were (12) _____ and remained poor. In fact, the latter nations have borrowed money from the industrial nations and still owe it in (13) _____. One final cause of poverty is politics. Sadly, countries that are (14) _____ or going through war tend to be poorer.

The 'poverty trap' or (15) _____ of poverty is important at a personal level. For example, poor children who work to help their families cannot receive (16) _____, which means they will only get jobs that pay (17) _____. So, little money will not help to bring up their future children, and these must start working at an early age and the cycle will start over.

What can be done about poverty? In 1996 the UN already had asked the richest countries to (18) _____ some little percentage of their GPD. However, only a few (19) _____, and others even reduced the aid. Thus, it is necessary to (20) _____ realistic solutions to get rid of poverty once and for all.