

## **Solutions to poverty discussion and reading with practice of the language of trends**

*Discuss Japanese trends in the topics below in pairs. One person should choose one topic below and discuss the past, present and future changes, then the other person give their views on what was said.*

- Salaries/ Bonuses
- Chances of promotion for women/ Equal opportunities
- Telecommuting
- Freelancers
- Holidays
- Job security
- Company pension schemes
- Working hours
- Unpaid overtime
- The consumer price index (= Inflation)
- Casual jobs – Permanent jobs
- The age of retirement
- Outsourcing
- The stock market
- Unemployment (e.g. for one particular age group)
- The long-term unemployed
- Residential property prices
- Commercial property prices
- Income tax
- VAT (= Value Added Tax)
- Corporate tax
- Government debt
- Consumer debt
- Rate of bankruptcies
- Imports – Exports/ The balance of trade
- Consumer confidence
- The number of people investing in the stock market
- The number of IPOs
- Poverty
- Inequality
- Social mobility

*Discuss the last three as a class. What are the possible solutions to those problems?*

*What solutions of these kinds can you think of?*

- Financial
- Educational
- Parenting

*Which of those solutions are best?*

*What do you think about these solutions?*

**Financial solutions**

- Taxing the rich
- Income transfers (= The government giving money to poor families)

**Educational solutions**

- A pupil premium (= Giving more money to schools which have more students from poor families)
- Giving schools a mission to increase social mobility
- More streaming (= dividing students by ability) in state schools
- Restricting private education
- Starting school earlier
- Starting school later
- Focusing on pre-school children

**Parenting solutions**

- Parenting lessons
- Discouraging poor families from having more children

*(Optional – Rank the ideas above)*

*Find things above that are mentioned in the text below and summarise what is said about each one. Not all of the things above are mentioned.*

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/sep/24/focus-under-fives-children-equal-chance>

*Which one does the author think is a priority?*

*What do you think about the author's conclusions?*