

To what extent have social and economic inequalities been reduced in the USA?

If answering a question in this area one point you may wish to make is that a large number of blacks have been lived the American Dream but even more still live in poverty with high unemployment, poor education, etc.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION was a series of programmes and measures to overcome discrimination in employment and education.

- Quotas were set for organisations such as the police and fire brigade
- Colleges and universities gave preference to minority candidates – allowed on courses such as law & medicine with poor qualifications
- Companies with state contracts had to give minority job candidates preference
- Busing was controversial policy of balancing race in schools – white parents angry when children had to leave wealthy school in suburbs to travel to run-down inner city school (policy ended in 1995)

Arguments Against

- Unfair and not in line with constitution - caused great anger among many whites
- Created dependency culture among blacks
- Overall not a great success – some blacks made progress but still great divide between the average white and black standard of living