

External assessment 2021

Stimulus book

Philosophy & Reason

General instruction

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Stimulus 1

Universal basic income

Prompted by significant economic disruptions and concerns over potential increases in joblessness caused by automation, the idea of a universal basic income (UBI) has been proposed in recent years by some academics and policymakers. Small-scale trials have taken place in several countries.

A UBI is a regular minimum payment — enough to cover the basic cost of living — made to each adult by the state and funded through taxation. Most UBI proposals share three features:

1. It is paid automatically to all adults regardless of personal wealth and whether one is in paid employment, so that all income from paid work is earned as additional income.
2. It is paid without conditions, e.g. without the need to look for a job.
3. It is set at a high enough level to protect citizens against poverty.

Source: Arthur, D 2016, *Basic Income: A radical idea enters the mainstream* (research paper), Department of Parliamentary Services, Canberra.

Stimulus 2

Distributive justice

The economic, political, and social frameworks that each society has — its laws, institutions, policies, etc. — result in different distributions of benefits and burdens across members of the society ... The structure of these frameworks is important because the distributions of benefits and burdens resulting from them fundamentally affect people's lives. Arguments about which frameworks and/or resulting distributions are morally preferable constitute the topic of distributive justice.

Source: Lamont, J & Favor, C 2017, 'Distributive justice', *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

References

Source 1

Basic income: a radical idea enters the mainstream – Parliament of Australia 2016, https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/BasicIncome

Source 2

Excerpt from Lamont, J & Favor, C 2017, 'Distributive justice', Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-distributive/> Used with permission.



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