

## Basic Income & Justice

### 1. Unconditional basic income

Basic idea: Everyone should have what they need to live. Let's give everyone a check!

*Q1: Reconstruct the argument for an unconditional basic income. Why think it's a good idea?*

Problem: But some people just don't contribute. Why give free money to surfer bums?

### 2. Conditional basic income

Basic idea: To solve the "surfer bum" problem, we should only give a check to those who contribute to society in some way (by working paid jobs, or doing caretaking jobs, etc.).

*Q2: Reconstruct the argument for a conditional basic income (i.e. the Reciprocity Principle):*

Problem: What if only really crappy jobs are available? Society should provide for your needs even if you don't take the crappy jobs.

### 3. Minimum threshold of justice

Basic idea: The CBI is only just when a basic threshold of justice is met:

1. There must be decent opportunities to participate
2. We have to recognize all of the different forms of contribution to society
3. *Everyone* has to contribute to get the check – including rich people.

Suppose this minimal threshold of justice *isn't* met.

*Q3:* Suppose your society is sexist and will only hire women to do really crappy jobs. Do women have an obligation to work in those crappy jobs, or should the government just redistribute money to them?

*Q4:* Suppose the government doesn't redistribute money to women. Are the women justified in redistributing money to themselves? (i.e. stealing from the men?)

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<sup>1</sup> be with you

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