

Answer Key: What is Justice?

1. What is justice as equality?
Everyone should get the same kind and amount of stuff.
2. What is need-based justice?
Everyone shouldn't get the same because our needs aren't the same. (People who need more get more.)
3. What is merit-based justice?
Giving unequally based on what each person deserves (based on what they've done).
Rewards hard work and punishes troublemakers.
4. Explain John Rawls' "justice as fairness" philosophy.
People should have a level playing field with the same basic rights and liberties. Any inequalities in social system should favour the least well off. This means taxes on the rich, and equality laws for the benefit of all. Everyone gets their basic needs met.
5. Explain what Robert Nozick means by "entitled".
Refers to things you are born with or earn. It's fair as long as you didn't steal it or get it unjustly.
6. How do negative rights differ from positive rights?

Negative rights means you are free from things, like violence or discrimination.
You should not be interfered with or prevented from trying to fulfill your needs.

Positive rights means you are free to do things that you want to do. You are entitled to help getting your needs met if you can't do it yourself.