

1 Listening Comprehension – Answer Key

Text: Lyndon B. Johnson, *The Great Society*,

<http://americanrhetoric.com/speeches/lbjthegreatsociety.htm>

C QUESTIONS AND TASKS

1. According to Johnson, what is “the test of our success as a nation”?

The test is if they can »pursue the happiness« of the American people.

2. Besides »enrich[ing] and elevat[ing] our national life«, what is the »challenge of the next half century«?

The challenge of the next half century is “to advance the quality of the American civilization.”

3. What are the three ‘types’ of societies Johnson talks about?

The rich society, the powerful society and “the Great Society”.

4. Complete the following sentence from the speech: “It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time.”

5. Briefly summarize five main characteristics of the Great Society.

The Great Society is a place where every child can get a good education, where people »build and reflect« in their leisure time, where cities are also places of beauty and community, where people are in touch with and respect nature and where they strive for a good life, not just for wealth.

- 6. According to Johnson, how many citizens will there be in the USA in 50 years' time and how many of them will live in urban areas?**

In 50 years' time, there will be 400 millions Americans and four-fifths of them, i.e. 320 million people, will live in urban areas.

- 7. Name at least three problems of the US countryside.**

Food and air are "threatened with pollution", "parks are overcrowded, our seashores overburdened. Green fields and dense forests are disappearing."

- 8. How many US citizens have not finished five or eight years of school?**

28 million Americans have not finished five or eight years of school.

- 9. Why do 100,000 US high school graduates not enter college each year?**

They do not enter college "because they cannot afford it."

- 10. What are the problems that teachers in the USA have to face?**

They are underpaid and/or unqualified.

(Christian Schröter)