Chapter Overviews

Chapter 1
- Social policy is an academic subject which both overlaps with cognate subject and has a discrete disciplinary base.
- It has changed its name from 'social administration' to 'social policy' to reflect a broadening concern with the theory as well as the practice of welfare.
- The welfare reforms in the United Kingdom in the period following the Second World War were critically important in establishing the policy context for subsequent policy development.
- Social policy analysts adopt a range of different theoretical perspectives, leading to differing conclusions about the viability and desirability of different policy measures.
- Much social policy has been developed by national governments, but policy also has local and supranational dimensions.

Chapter 2
- Social policy is a research-informed and research-orientated academic subject.
- Research methods and approaches, and research evidence, form an essential part of the foundation on which the subject's knowledge and practice base is built.
- Students of social policy need to have a good understanding of the wide range of approaches and methods in social policy research, including how to read critically and make judgments about the quality of published research, and how to conduct their own investigations.
- Social policy draws from the full range of social science research approaches, quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, and research designs, with established procedures for how to review the existing literature, and for collecting and analysing data, within an ethical framework.
- There is no universally superior research design or research method – they are only as good as their suitability to the research question(s) being asked.

Chapter 3
- An examination of the growth and structure of social welfare provision.
- An identification of some basic definitions of need.
- A review debates about need, and the way it is used in practice.
- A discussion of ideas about social problems.
- A brief introduction to social problems, needs, and well-being.

Chapter 4
- Equality, rights, and social justice are all political slogans, endlessly contested, endlessly renewed.
- The main contrast in relation to equality is between the increasingly popular Centre-Left ideology of equality of opportunity and the traditional Left conception of equality of outcome.
- Rights have been based on needs, capabilities (the opportunities actually available to people) and deserts. The question of how far people should take responsibility for meeting their own needs and when they merit state support attracts increasing attention.
- For justice the big division is between those who base just allocations on individual contribution and circumstances and those who take social factors into account.
- In a more fluid, flexible, diverse, uncertain, and globalized world the opportunities for making claims based on these concepts multiply while the capacity of governments to achieve them directly, through tax and spend, diminishes.

Chapter 5
- Debating equalities and human rights involves reflecting on a number of conceptual ideas relating to freedom, rights, recognition, redistribution, and social justice.

- Policies to promote equalities in the United Kingdom have progressed in a piecemeal way, leading to significant variance in the legal protections available to different social groups.
- Human rights are of a different order than other rights; they are unassailable rights that are held by all people which are upheld and protected rather than being enacted through legislation.
- Approaches to achieving equality vary and are influenced extensively by the values of those with responsibility for implementing policy and practice to promote equality.
- The current political and economic environment calls into question the future direction of policy activity to promote equality and human rights and the extent to which these issues will be prioritized in an environment of significant public sector cuts.

Chapter 6
- Economics provides a framework to analyse the production and use of welfare services.
- Economic analysis begins from the assumption of scarcity – we cannot have everything we want. So people and society must make choices.
- The appropriate cost of these choices to society is the opportunity cost – the resources forgone if the choice is made.
- Economic efficiency means making the most of scarce resources. Economic efficiency occurs when the opportunity cost of using resources in a particular activity is equal to the sum of everyone's marginal benefits from that activity.
- Efficiency is not the only goal. Other goals include fairness and choice. These goals may clash with efficiency.
- Economists see markets and choice as one way of delivering efficiency, responsiveness in public services.

Chapter 7
- Differing assumptions about human nature underpin the principles and practices upon which social policies are based.
- Understandings of family relationships are based on assumptions about reciprocal commitments to love and care. Their gendered nature has been challenged in particular by feminist critics.
- The collective obligations which underpin social policy are based on a mixture of altruism and self-interest.
- Policies based more directly on self-reliance and self-protection were promoted by neo-liberals towards the end of the twentieth century, supported by the rise in sociobiology.
- Support for altruism and reciprocity in the future may require a fundamental review of the obligations and rights of citizenship.

Chapter 8
- Neo-liberal ideas pose a significant challenge for supporters of extensive systems of public welfare because they believe these systems are expensive, inefficient, and unnecessary.
- Neo-liberalism has its roots in classical liberal thinking and in the writings of Adam Smith in particular. Core ideas have changed little over time with the belief in individual freedom and the free market continuing to underpin neo-liberal ideals.
- Late neo-liberalism is closely associated with the work of Friedman and Hayek, the latter refining ideas of 'negative liberty' and the role of free market to challenge socialist and social democratic conceptions of 'social justice'.
- For neo-liberals, public welfare systems need to be cut back to: eliminate bureaucratic waste, reduce taxation, and allow greater choice through private service provision.
- For all its apparent elegance, neo-liberal thinking contains critical flaws. The conception of 'negative liberty' is unduly restricted and the faith in pure market solutions may be misplaced.

Chapter 9

- Emerging from groupings which opposed the ideas of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, by the late nineteenth century the Conservatives were more accepting of the need for social reform, while at the same time emphasizing national unity and a strong defence and foreign policy.
- During the 1920s and 1930s a number of Conservative politicians sought to encourage the party to be more supportive of a greater role for the state in the economy and social reform.
- Following their return to government at the 1951 general election, the Conservatives maintained, and in some respects developed, the welfare state, leading some to claim that there was a cross-party consensus.
- By the 1970s the balance of power within the Conservative Party was shifting to the Right, and from 1979 the Thatcher and Major governments sought to roll back the frontiers of the state, including in most areas of social policy.
- Following his election as Conservative leader in 2005, David Cameron attempted to give the party a broader appeal, including policy proposals that appeared to indicate a move towards the political Centre, while the creation of the coalition government in 2010 led to new challenges.

Chapter 10
- In the modern era the term social democracy has been used to describe parties, governments, or states which have sought to exert political control over capitalism in order to achieve greater equality and social justice.
- Social democratic welfare states are characterized by a commitment to egalitarianism, the maintenance of full employment, and a wide range of high quality universal welfare services.
- Although it is possible to draw fine distinctions between social democracy and democratic socialism, the terms tend to be used interchangeably.
- Modernized social democratic approaches have been adopted by some Centre-Left political parties such as New Labour.
- Public support for traditional social democratic parties appears to be in decline across Western Europe.

Chapter 11
The socialist perspective on social policy
- Argues that capitalism as a social and economic system is inherently inimical to human well - being.
- Regards the welfare state as an ambiguous phenomenon that has benefited disadvantaged and working - class people while also subjecting them to social control in the interests of capitalism.
- Has nonetheless played a role in the development of social policy in capitalist societies.
- Has informed past attempts to establish 'communist' social and economic systems with different approaches to welfare provision.
- Represents an intellectually significant critique of particular relevance to our understanding of social inequality and the practical development of alternative social policies opposed to capitalism.

Chapter 12
- The welfare state, its policies and practices construct and are simultaneously constructed through gender inequalities. It provides goods and services to support women, but at the same time fixes understandings of their needs.
- Feminists have used women's experiences to challenge what is understood by welfare to include the cultural and intimate spheres.
- Recent focus on the concept of care has informed the development of a feminist political ethic of care, creating new differentiated principles for welfare which recognize care as a valid human activity sustaining various welfare activities.
- More differentiated approaches to feminist social policy analysis bring issues of masculinity and relations of power and oppression to the fore, raising questions on how to reconcile gender inequality with other inequalities.
- Feminists interact with mainstream political structures to fight for gender inequality. However, there are complexities and costs. These are particularly acute in the contexts of moves to mainstreaming and financial austerity.

Chapter 13
- The environmental damage produced by our economic system is all too plain to see in oil spills, greenhouse gases, the loss of the rain forests, traffic pollution, and many other consequences of the industrial way of life.
- Widespread loss of life is predicted in the coming decades as global warming leads to changed weather patterns The human cost is already manifest across the globe as drought, hurricanes, and flooding have produced hundreds of thousands of 'environmental refugees'.
- Over the last quarter of the twentieth century concern for the environment moved from the province of small, uninfluential pressure groups to the agenda of the world's leading nations.
- There are many varieties of green thought but they are all united in their belief that the environment should take priority in social and political discussion.
- Climate change is persuading governments around the world to take environmental issues much more seriously than they have in the past.

Chapter 14
- Postmodernism articulates a disillusionment with traditional social and political theories, one which makes room for new approaches and ways of thinking.
- Post - structuralism also departs radically from previous philosophies, though it is more theoretically and methodologically precise, drawing attention to the instabilities of identity and meaning.
- As postmodernism and post-structuralism have themselves become established features of the intellectual landscape many have queried their importance or significance. In some respects they appear distant from the 'bread and butter' issues of social policy, yet in others they articulate changing social realities with which social policy must get to grips.
- Other social changes include increased attention to the concept of risk and its relevance to contemporary notions of citizenship and well-being.
- Some also believe that we must look to a wide variety of social movements to understand the dynamics of recent social developments.

Chapter 15
- It is easy to argue that a present- and future-centred subject like social policy has little need of an historical perspective.
- By contrast, this chapter suggests that an understanding of welfare in times past is important in providing an awareness of changes and continuities in relation to risk, resources, and responsibility.
- New environmental hazards, demographic patterns, and working practices may suggest new threats to welfare. But a view over time suggests that continuity as well as change is important in understanding threats to well-being.
- Resources – or responses to risk – show a considerable variety of agencies at work in the past as well as in the present. Together they comprise what is often called the mixed economy of welfare.
- There are also long-standing historical continuities in the ideological debate about who should be responsible for responding to risk. Should it be individuals themselves or government action?

Chapter 16
- During the nineteenth century, people sought protection against the risks of poverty and poor health with the aid of their families, friends and communities, through charities, and by joining mutual-aid associations.
- In England and Wales, the main form of statutory provision was the Poor Law, which originated in a series of Acts passed during the sixteenth century. Scotland possessed a much more rudimentary system of poor relief and a poor law was only introduced in Ireland in 1838.
- The English and Welsh Poor Laws experienced a major transformation in 1834.

- The Poor Law Amendment Act aimed to make poor relief less accessible to able-bodied men, and further efforts to 'tighten up' the Poor Law were introduced in the 1870s. However, there were also indications of a more flexible attitude to welfare provision during the final decades of the nineteenth century.
- The century also witnessed important developments with regard to the improvement of working conditions and the introduction of new housing standards, together with the provision of health care.
- In England and Wales, government grants to educational bodies were introduced in 1833, and School Boards assumed responsibility for the provision of elementary schools after 1870. The first Public Health Act was passed in 1848, and local authorities intensified their efforts to improve the standard of public health from the 1870s.
- Despite considerable progress during the final part of the nineteenth century, there was also growing anxiety about the need for further reform, and this contributed to the introduction of the Liberal welfare reforms after 1906.

Chapter 17
- In the late nineteenth century, growing international economic rivalry and rising pauperism created fears about social degeneration and imperial decline.
- New social scientific and medical analyses created fresh debates on the causes (and prevention) of poverty.
- A more radical organized labour movement threatened the political hegemony of Britain's two-party system.
- The Liberal governments of 1906-14 introduced extensive controversial new legislation principally designed to promote the health of the rising generation and to organize urban labour markets.
- While in some respects prescient of the future British welfare state of the late 1940s, the impact of this legislation was undermined by opposition and the mass unemployment of the inter - war years.

Chapter 18
- The decision of the Labour Party to join Churchill's Conservative-led wartime coalition government in 1940 and the publication of the Beveridge Report on Social Insurance in 1942 resulted in renewed emphasis being given to social policy and post-war reconstruction. The coalition government introduced a landmark Education Act in 1944 and published a series of influential White Papers on employment, social security, and health care.
- The Labour governments of 1945-51 are often credited with creating the modern welfare state. Two of their major reforms were the National Insurance Act of 1946 and the establishment of a National Health Service in 1948.
- Following their second post - war General Election defeat in 1950, the Conservative Party attempted to persuade the public that they were fully supportive of the welfare state. The One Nation Group played a significant role in developing a modern Conservative approach to social policy.
- There is continuing debate as to whether a welfare 'consensus' between the two major parties occurred in the post - war period.
- Looking ahead it remains to be seen whether the 'classic' welfare state can survive in the twenty - first century.

Chapter 19
- Neither 'economic crises' nor the resulting 'retrenchments' are new. But the neoliberal ideas that took root during the oil price triggered crisis of the mid-1970s have had a lasting influence. They convinced many governments to change their approach to social policy.
- The outcome was not to dramatically reduce the size of modern welfare states in the subsequent thirty years. They continued to grow, albeit at a slower pace. One reason lay in the failure of the neo - liberal theorists to accept the fact that many of the problems they saw facing state welfare institutions faced their private alternatives to an even greater extent.
- However, these ideas did prompt a major *restructuring* of welfare institutions worldwide, not least in the United Kingdom between 1979 and 1997.

- Governments were convinced it was necessary to limit social benefit generosity and duration and encourage a faster return to work.
- Competition between state run providers and new private entrants to the welfare marketplace was designed to improve service efficiency.
- Public service providers were given productivity targets. Failing to reach them was publicized and punished.
- The scale of the recent credit crisis provided the opportunity for the Conservative-Liberal coalition at Westminster to drive through a series of policies that derived from this body of ideas with even greater determination than Mrs Thatcher – the Conservative prime minister from 1979 to 1991.

Chapter 20
- It is difficult to define the Third Way, but it is best represented by the US Clinton Democratic (1992–2000) and UK Blair/Brown New Labour (1997–2010) administrations.
- The Third Way can be examined in terms of discourse, values, policy goals, and policy mechanisms.
- The Third Way in practice shows a wide variety of new policy goals and mechanisms, which increasingly seem to draw upon neo - liberalism.
- In many areas, the rhetoric of the New Labour government was not matched by delivery, and so ' third order' or ' paradigmatic ' change was limited.
- The New Labour legacy is probably less influential than those of the Attlee Labour (1945) and Thatcher Conservative (1979) governments.

Chapter 21
- Changes in the size and composition of the population are the result of the combined effects of changes in mortality, fertility, and migration. However, the most important driver behind population ageing is the decline in fertility rates.
- The key demographic changes in the United Kingdom over the past century include a declining fertility rate, a fluctuating but generally low mortality rate, and the shift from the United Kingdom as a country of emigration to a country of predominantly inward immigration.
- The United Kingdom today can be described as an aged society, where the proportion of older people (aged sixty-five and over) increasingly represents a greater part of the total population.
- Changes in mortality, fertility, and migration in the United Kingdom have been taking place alongside an increasing diversity in the ethnic composition of the population and changes in family structures and living arrangements.
- Understanding demographic changes is a key part of designing and implementing social policies for a constantly changing population.

Chapter 22
- What is economic policy?
- Why is the relationship between economic and social policy considered problematic?
- What have been the key features of British governments' economic policies since 1945, and how were they linked to social policy provision?
- Why and how has the international context become increasingly important for economic and social policy - making? What is all the fuss about competitiveness?
- Does the process of globalization imply that governments can no longer make autonomous decisions about the economic and social policies?

Chapter 23
- Religious bodies were often the first providers of social welfare and social assistance and remain so in many countries round the world.
- United States and continental European analysts have paid more systematic attention to the role of religion in the development of social policy in their countries than their British counterparts.

- All world religions, including new age religions, have teachings on the nature of happiness and well-being, as well as selfless service.
- The extent to which religious welfare groups are able to solve social problems varies. Some are more focused on issues of morality and identity, but others run large-scale programmes designed to improve social and economic conditions.
- In the United Kingdom, government policy has, controversially, grown increasingly faith-friendly since the 1980s.

Chapter 24
- There have been significant changes in patterns of family formation and dissolution, and so in family structures, in the United Kingdom in the past half-century.
- There have also been changes in employment patterns, with most mothers, especially those with older children, now in paid employment.
- Family values and norms about the 'right thing to do' have become more complex and dependent on context. But this does not imply a lack of commitment to family, although these commitments are subject to reflection and negotiation.
- Family policy can be defined in relation to policy goals, to areas of activity and to institutional structures. The key areas of activity include the regulation of family behaviour, cash and tax transfers for families, and the provision of services.
- In the United Kingdom family policy has become more explicit in recent years, with a range of new policies introduced and existing provisions developed.
- Family policy is at the heart of important debates about the future direction of the welfare state, in particular in relation to the reconciliation of paid work and unpaid care.

Chapter 25
- The study of the social divisions of welfare is concerned with understanding fundamental and enduring differences between social groups in their experiences of welfare provision and the type of outcomes that they receive from it.
- Key divisions have been identified as existing between men and women, disabled and non-disabled people and between people of different socio - economic classes, ethnic groups, religions, nationalities, ages, and sexualities.
- Social divisions can be complex and cross-cutting.
- Some social groups have distinct and identifiable welfare needs that are different from other categories of people. Researchers and campaigners have argued that such differences should be recognized formally and taken into account when social policies are designed and implemented.
- Social divisions are related to, but distinct from social inequalities, social justice, and issues of equity and equality.

Chapter 26
- Poverty has always been a major concern for social policy researchers and policymakers.
- Academics and policy- makers disagree about how to define and measure poverty.
- Definition and measurement has more recently been extended to include also the problem of social exclusion.
- Poverty and social exclusion are complex multidimensional problems; but both began to grow in the 1980s after relatively low levels since the Second World War.
- Academic and policy concern is increasingly focused on the global dimensions of poverty and exclusion.

Chapter 27
- The distribution of resources is central to the provision of welfare through social policy, although distribution and redistribution takes place through both state, and private and voluntary transfers.
- There is a range of different rationales underpinning the redistribution of resources to promote welfare.

- There are different ways of measuring distribution and its benefits for different groups. How it is paid for – and who pays – is very important in this.
- Much of the redistributive effect of welfare is as a sort of 'savings bank' transferring resources between different stages of people's own lives.
- However redistribution also plays a significant 'Robin Hood' role benefiting poorer sections of society most, particularly once one allows for how it is paid for.

Chapter 28
- Studying the policy process can add to our understanding of the ways in which policies are made, implemented, and evaluated and the reasons that particular policies are or are not adopted, including how power is exercised to bring social issues and problems to the agendas of decision - makers.
- There is a wide range of models and concepts that can be used to analyse the policy process. Applying particular models to specific policies and policy areas can allow us to gain a better understanding of the role of different groups, their power relative to one another, and the motivations behind particular government actions and inactions.
- In recent years there has been a greater awareness of the complexity of the social world, meaning that new ways of analysing and understanding the policy process have emerged.
- In addition, the approaches taken by different governments to the making and implementation of policies can impact upon the type of policies that emerge, so that, for example, a preference for market - based approaches is likely to have particular consequences for the shape of policies.

Chapter 29
- Both the previous New Labour and the current Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition governments have claimed that policy evaluation and evidence-based policymaking are important.
- Different types of policy evaluation – prospective, formative, and summative – operate at different stages in the policy cycle.
- Different types of evaluation designs exist.
- There are different views about what constitutes valid 'evidence' in evidence-based policymaking.
- It is impossible to eradicate 'values' from either policy evaluation or evidence-based policymaking.

Chapter 30
- The role of the state in the provision of welfare grew markedly for much of the twentieth century, yet the extent and form of its involvement in social policy has always been a matter of contention.
- There have been major debates about the balance of provision between the public, commercial, not-for-profit, and informal sectors and the relationships between and responsibilities of individuals and the state, and these have been reflected in the approaches of governments.
- From the late 1970s Conservative governments sought to reduce the scope of state welfare provision and make the public sector more similar to the private sector in its operation.
- Between 1997 and 2010 Labour were much more accepting of the state playing a major role in welfare and public expenditure grew significantly.
- The policies of the UK coalition government from 2010 implied major changes in state welfare, with public expenditure cuts and a desire for greater involvement in social provision by non-statutory providers.

Chapter 31
- There are many different kinds of for - profit companies that are involved in the delivery of welfare services.
- The extent and type of state welfare activity plays a key role in determining the scope for commercial welfare services in advanced welfare states.
- Recent reforms in advanced welfare states have led to a 'blurring of the boundaries' between the public and private sectors.
- The more the provision of welfare services relies on markets and private providers, the more important regulation of these becomes in the pursuit of social policy goals.

Chapter 32

- Occupational provision is a key but neglected component of the United Kingdom's welfare mix.
- It consists of the 'above- wage' elements of the reward packages supplied by employers to secure the health, safety, and well - being of their staff.
- Potentially embracing a wide range of benefits it has been revamped over the past decade in the face of changing mandatory requirements and challenging economic conditions.
- The adjustments reflect the revised calculations of the key stakeholders: employers, governments, and trades unions.
- In spite of these changes workplace schemes continue to complement UK statutory welfare provision albeit in an uneven and unequal way.

Chapter 33

- 'Voluntary welfare' is nurtured and delivered through a plethora of organizations situated between the market and the state.
- The scale, structure, and diversity of these organizations is recognized in both empirical and theoretical accounts.
- Deepening interest in 'social capital' has reinforced interest in the role of associations in social, political, and economic life.
- Volunteering is increasingly understood as involving a range of motivations and structures.
- Voluntary organizations' growing proximity to the state and possible role in notions of a 'Big Society' are hotly debated.

Chapter 34

- Informal care refers to care provided over and above the normal support that friends or family members give each other as a matter of course.
- Caregiving can have negative impacts on carers' physical health and emotional well-being.
- Carers can find it difficult to combine paid work with caring, but giving up employment, or reducing the number of hours worked, can have negative impacts on finances and future work prospects.
- Government policies to support carers have had only limited impact.
- The future supply of informal carers may be inadequate to support an ageing population.

Chapter 35

- Some of the reasons why we have come to pay for many of the most important things in life through collective state funding lie in the economic theory of market failure.
- Another reason lies in the spread of our needs throughout the life cycle.
- How we pay for these services matters not just in terms of how the burden falls on rich and poor but in taxation's impact on efficiency in the wider economy.
- How welfare institutions are funded also affects their own efficiency.
- Many welfare services are paid for privately both in cash and in time spent by carers.
- Governments are using new ways to respond to the challenge of an ageing population, rising expectations of service standards, and growing reluctance to pay through taxation.

Chapter 36

- The tax system affects well-being but is often bypassed in social policy debates.
- Different kinds of taxes differ in the way they affect inequality; but, when combined with benefits and services, they redistribute towards those on lower incomes.
- Tax expenditures (tax reliefs and allowances) are a parallel form of welfare to public benefits and services that often give more to the better off.
- Taxation may be thought to affect behaviour, including work and family life.
- Taxation is about the civic contract – the relationship between citizen and state.

Chapter 37
- The principles governing access to welfare are, in part, an attempt to ration resources.
- A key criterion for assessing these principles is the extent to which they ensure that needs are met.
- Need may be interpreted in broad or narrow ways, drawing on principles of universal citizenship or selectivity.
- Access to welfare depends on residence status and is mediated through rights (conditional or unconditional) or discretion.
- Proposals to enhance welfare include substantive reforms to widen access and procedural or process reforms designed to ensure respectful treatment of users, the securing and enforcement of rights, and user-involvement in the development of welfare.

Chapter 38
- The processes of managing and delivering welfare are not merely technical matters.
- Managing welfare involves dealing with conflicting priorities.
- Delivering welfare involves managing demanding, difficult, and unstable relationships with the public.
- Delivering welfare increasingly involves welfare recipients in do- it-yourself delivery.
- Welfare delivery is moving beyond recognizable organizations, institutions, and systems.

Chapter 39
- Accountability is about public bodies *accounting* for their actions: how they collect and spend money, what they do with it, the quality of services provided, and the extent to which policies are followed.
- Accountability is a relational term.
- The 'hollowing out' of the state has made accountability more complex.
- While it is important that state actors should be accountable for their actions, mechanisms for improving accountability also carry disadvantages.
- Accountability is not neutral: it is a normative concept, closely related to issues of power and political priorities.

Chapter 40
- The original 'welfare citizens' were seen primarily in passive terms.
- The influence of neo-liberal thinking created the identity of 'welfare consumers' .
- Service-user organizations challenged assumptions of professionally determined service delivery and impacted on policy and research.
- Both Labour and Conservative governments have promoted the idea of 'active citizens' with responsibility for their own and others' welfare.
- Mechanisms for user/citizen influence on policy and services continue to change.

Chapter 41
- The analysis of local provision involves the study of both local government and local governance.
- Both are a key element of social policy formation and provision.
- Local government structures are subject to constant reorganization and there is continuous tension between central and local concerns.
- The development of local government is best considered in terms of five stages, the latest involving major changes in its role and resources.
- These are presenting new challenges and questions about the configuration of local governance.

Chapter 42
- The United Kingdom is a unitary, London-centred state that has made a political adjustment to the wishes of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland by devolving powers over many areas of social policy.
- England still dominates in both scale and thinking, and retains control over the tax-benefit system.

- The organization of the welfare state within the devolved nations is more coherent than in England.
- The devolved nations have made some interesting policy initiatives, generally in the direction of a more universalist and less privatized welfare state.
- The current arrangements are politically and financially unstable.

Chapter 43
- Social policy has been on the European agenda since the founding of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957.
- The social dimension of the European Union (EU) has been primarily concerned with the social protection of workers.
- The Union has progressively extended its social policy competence and has introduced softer and more proactive instruments for policymaking and implementation.
- The relationship between the European Union and national level governance is interactive, with national governments retaining responsibility for the content, organization, and delivery of social protection systems.
- In a context of population decline and ageing and the aftermath of economic recession, the Union is facing unprecedented challenges to its social model.

Chapter 44
- International organizations are an important arena of social policy formation.
- A distinction may be made between international governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations.
- These organizations actively shape the distribution and redistribution of resources within and between countries.
- They are tangibly involved in the financing, regulation, and provision of welfare goods and services.
- Debates about social policy in these organizations reflect different ideologies and perspectives on the best way of promoting human welfare.

Chapter 45
- Social security represents just under one - third of all government spending. The largest group of benefit recipients are children, 13 million of whom receive Child Benefit, through their parents – though there are plans to remove entitlement from higher earners. Pensioners come next, with 12 million receiving state retirement pension.
- Definitions of social security vary from broad definitions encompassing all methods of securing an income to narrow definitions focusing on state systems of income maintenance.
- Social security systems vary in their aims. The British system focuses on alleviating poverty, hence considerable reliance on means-tested provision. Continental European systems focus more on insurance-based systems.
- State benefits are typically divided into: *contributory benefits* such as the state retirement pension; *means- tested benefits* /tax credits such as income support; and contingent or *categorical benefits* such as child benefit.
- There has been an emphasis from both Conservative and Labour governments in Britain on individual responsibility rather than state provision. This is evident in recent reforms of pensions, disability benefit, and child support.

Chapter 46
- The UK coalition government has continued and intensified the welfare-to- work programmes introduced by New Labour (1997-2010).
- A central feature of welfare - to - work programmes since 1997 has been the growing use of conditionality.
- The scope of welfare - to - work programmes has been steadily widened in recent years, and they now focus increasingly upon lone parents and disabled people.

- Third sector and private agencies will play an increasing role in the delivery of welfare-to -work programmes.
- The intensification of welfare-to-work programmes has been criticized on the grounds that it devalues unpaid work, especially caring.

Chapter 47
- Health care issues are prominent in most industrial societies. Health care takes up a large proportion of the taxpayer ' s money and attracts considerable media attention.
- The medical profession remains a powerful influence within the health care system, although the perspectives of patients, users, and carers are increasingly acknowledged.
- Three main models of health care funding exist – tax-based, state insurance, and private insurance. The United Kingdom is mainly a tax-based system. Large sums of money have been committed to the NHS in recent years, but financial problems and inequities in funding remain.
- There is increasing plurality in service provision, encouraging the private and voluntary sector into the NHS 'market '.
- Renewed efforts have been made to encourage partnership working between the NHS, local government, voluntary groups, and the private sector.

Chapter 48
- The school systems in the United Kingdom have differing legislative frameworks and policies. School structures, funding, curriculum, and assessment vary.
- Choice, diversity, and market-oriented policies have a high profile in England but not in the rest of the United Kingdom.
- Across the countries of the United Kingdom, there has been a focus on increasing the achievement levels of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Approaches to tackle the attainment gap vary between countries.
- Across the United Kingdom, there is an entitlement to part-time preschool education for three- and four-year-old children, and in England and Wales an extension to some disadvantaged two-year-olds.

Chapter 49
- Lifelong learning includes people of all ages learning in a variety of contexts. It is an idea informing post-compulsory education and training policies, prompted by globalization and changes in the labour market.
- These policies are important for economic growth and the wellbeing of society but their economic objectives are prioritized.
- Policies focus on improving the skill levels and mix of the existing and future workforce so there is a balance in the supply of, and demand for, skilled labour.
- Between 1997 and 2010, the Labour government tried to increase the supply of skilled workers by expanding post - compulsory education, encouraging greater participation, and getting people to take more and higher qualifications. The new coalition government plans to increase the demand for skilled worker by focusing on skills rather than qualifications.
- The UK coalition government announced public expenditure cuts on post-compulsory education in 2010, shifting more of the costs onto learners and employers.
- Participation in post-compulsory education remains unequal, with those from disadvantaged backgrounds in greatest need but missing out. Inequality begets inequality and cumulates across the life cycle.

Chapter 50
- Housing policy has played an important part in the welfare state, involving fiscal, tax, and regulatory policies, but there has never been monopoly provision of state housing.
- Between 1919 and 1979 council housing became a significant and desirable housing tenure. Since 1979 it has narrowed its focus, lost subsidy, and become less popular. By 2010 less than one-quarter of social housing was directly provided by local authorities.

- After 1979 supply-side subsidies (for housing construction) were a key target for public expenditure reductions but expenditure on demand-side subsidies (to enable tenants to pay rents) continued to grow.
- Policies on homelessness and access to social housing have important social policy dimensions with a shifting emphasis between local discretion and national direction and between social and private provision.
- Housing loomed large in public spending reductions under the Conservative led-coalition government; this time there was attention to reducing demand-side as well as supply-side subsidies, alongside promotion of localism and reduced regulation.

Chapter 51
- The origins of current social care in nineteenth-century philanthropy and in different understandings of the best way to respond to poverty.
- The changing ways in which social care has been delivered over time.
- The relationship between social care and other services such as health care and education.
- Key changes under the New Labour governments of 1997-2010.
- Emerging issues such as investing in prevention and the advent of direct payments and personal budgets.

Chapter 52
- Traditionally, criminal justice and penal policy have not been greatly studied by social policy scholars; this is now changing markedly.
- The main institutions of our 'modern' system of criminal justice came into being during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- A profound shift in emphasis away from welfare and rehabilitation occurred in the final three decades of the twentieth century.
- The dominant features of contemporary criminal justice have been punitiveness, politicization, and populism.
- The late twentieth century has seen a remarkable growth in the use of imprisonment and other forms of penal surveillance.

Chapter 53
- The United Kingdom's minority groups make up a small, but growing, section of the population.
- Race relations policies developed in tandem with immigration controls to promote the incorporation of minorities in contrast to the exclusion of non-citizens.
- There is great diversity in history and current experience between the United Kingdom's minority groups.
- Nevertheless, all non-white minorities have typically faced racism and exclusion from services, as a result of racialized conceptions of belonging, rights, and citizenship.
- The United Kingdom's ethnic minority groups show great diversity in outcomes across policy areas, though they share the experience of disadvantage relative to their skills and experience.
- Policy has had a role in both creating inequalities across social welfare domains, and in addressing them.

Chapter 54
- Children are key recipients of welfare services across a wide range of policy areas, and their lives are considerably shaped by the type and quality of welfare services available.
- Modern childhood is undergoing considerable social and economic change and children of the twenty-first century live increasingly complex lives in a range of diverse family settings.
- Child welfare policies change over time, and depend on fluid and changing assumptions about the needs and rights of children, the needs and rights of parents, and the role of the state in children's lives.
- There is increasing recognition in policy that children are social actors and bearers of rights. There is also a trend towards 'social investment policies' which focus on children as 'citizen workers' of the future.
- The chapter examines a key policy area for children, the issue of child poverty. It explores the Child Poverty Act and looks at the impact on children of a range of policy initiatives and the implications for children of changes and continuities in policy when there is a change of government.

Chapter 55
- This chapter starts with a brief discussion about what we mean by 'youth' and 'young people'.
- It describes the emergence of youth policy in Britain in four main phases:
    - The first covers the arrival of youth policy in the period 1999-2000, mainly under the influence of the Social Exclusion Unit. This saw the first Minister for Young People.
    - The second period (2000-5) saw the birth, life, and 'demise' of the 'Connexions Strategy' described at the end of 1999 by the prime minister as 'our front line policy for young people'. Yet by 2005 no one spoke of this 'strategy' at all.
    - During the (overlapping) third period, youth policy became submerged in policy for 'children- and-young people' under the predominant discourses of the 2003 Green Paper *Every Child Matters* and further enmeshed following a 2005 Green Paper *Youth Matters*.
    - Finally, we describe some of the issues which are beginning to emerge as the coalition government, elected in 2010, begins an era of austerity.

Chapter 56
- Demographic changes mean that older people are a major focus of debate within social policy.
- The United Kingdom (along with many countries) is an ageing society with a 'dependency ratio' increasing, due to improved life expectancy and decreasing fertility rates.
- Funding adequate retirement incomes for older people is a major concern that raises fundamental issues regarding the responsibilities of government, employers, and individuals.
- Younger people are likely to have to work longer than their parents' generation. The concept of retirement and what a working life should consist of is being questioned.
- Older people are the largest consumers of health and social care services, and share many needs with disabled people (see Chapter 57).

Chapter 57
- There has been growing interest and development in disability policy since the 1970s.
- Disability is more and more seen as an issue of human rights, citizenship, and equality rather than one of care and rehabilitation.
- The claims and voices of the disabled people's movement have been instrumental in bringing about this change.
- Disabled people have become more active welfare consumers, taking control of resources to manage the support they need in place of traditional services.
- More countries have introduced policies to counter disability discrimination, based on civil and human rights, but legislation is not enough to guarantee full citizenship.
- Transnational governance has become more important through institutions like the European Union and the United Nations.

Chapter 58
- Britain has a long history of migration and ethnic diversity.
- People migrate for economic, social, and familial reasons and/or to escape persecution, human rights abuses, war, and conflict.
- Immigration and asylum policy has been concerned with curbing immigration and is racialized.
- The links between immigration and social welfare became established as early as 1905 and are still interconnected.
- Immigration and asylum policy has resulted in a hierarchy of rights where some groups are included while others have been increasingly excluded from society.

Chapter 59
- Comparative analysis is a crucial constituent of social policy.
- Its development reflects shifts in the discipline and national welfare strategies.

- Comparative enquiry raises distinct conceptual and methodological issues.
- Cross-national comparisons can be framed in various ways.
- There is a range of explanations for variations in country welfare mixes.

Chapter 60
- European countries have consistently been the highest spenders on social policy within the economically advanced groups of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.
- European countries provide the most generous benefit levels within the OECD.
- Typically European (but not British) is the use of employment protection as a mechanism for securing income for wage earners.
- Typically European (but not British) is the involvement of social partners in social policymaking.

Chapter 61
- Liberal market societies are defined as ones where social policy development has been particularly inhibited by political value systems that see it as a threat to the working of capitalist markets.
- While the United States is seen as the archetypical example of a liberal market system, social policy 'regime theory' identifies a group of nations with similar characteristics including the United Kingdom and other predominantly English speaking nations.
- There is a range of approaches to social policy within liberal market regimes.
- Discussion is complicated by the dominance of liberal market approaches in the management of the economy in many parts of the world.
- The debate over liberal market social policy regimes forms part of a wider controversy about the likelihood and characteristics of a single global social policy agenda.

Chapter 62
- The growing importance of East Asian societies in the global economy has stimulated interest in their social policy arrangements.
- Social provision in these societies is highly variable but also differs from that in other regions.
- There are various ways of characterizing and explaining social policy in East Asian societies.
- Studying welfare systems in East Asia raises wider questions about comparative policy theorization.
- Social provision in these societies is facing new challenges arising from a combination of economic and demographic change.

Chapter 63
- Social policy in Middle Eastern countries can be broadly characterized as corporatist/residual.
- In the absence of adequate empirical research, the Rentier state concept has dominated academic discourse – especially in relation to the Arab countries.
- A major challenge facing the formulation of social policy in the region is the lack of adequate definitions and empirical data (apart from Turkey and Israel).
- International organizations exercise a major influence on social policy agendas in the Middle East.
- Arab governments are beginning to formulate social vision statements that emphasize economic development but have yet to clearly articulate the roles of citizenship and social rights in their societies.

Chapter 64
- The study of welfare arrangements in developing societies is a relatively new and expanding domain within mainstream social policy.
- A range of classification systems have been devised to explore and account for these arrangements.
- International institutions and overseas development assistance play a key role in shaping social policy in developing societies.
- There is growing recognition of the need for more predictable, sustainable forms of social protection and the expansion of social assistance programmes.