

## SOURCE A:

*George Orwell – “Down and Out in Paris and London”*  
*Published in 1933, this is an autobiographical extract on the theme of poverty.*

Paddy was my mate for about the next fortnight, and, as he was the first tramp I had known at all well, I want to give an account of him. I believe that he was a typical tramp and there are tens of thousands in England like him.

He was a tallish man, aged about thirty-five, with fair hair going grizzled and watery blue eyes. His features were good, but his cheeks had lanked and had that greyish, dirty in the grain look that comes of a bread and margarine diet. He was dressed, rather better than most tramps, in a tweed shooting-jacket and a pair of old evening trousers with the braid still on them. He was careful of his appearance altogether, and carried a razor and bootbrush that he would not sell though one would have known him for a tramp a hundred yards away. There was something in his drifting style of walk, and the way he had of hunching his shoulders forward, essentially abject. 5 10

He had been brought up in Ireland, served two years in the war, and then worked in a metal polish factory, where he had lost his job two years earlier. He was horribly ashamed of being a tramp, but he had picked up all a tramp's ways. He browsed the pavements unceasingly, never missing a cigarette end, or even an empty cigarette packet, as he used the tissue paper for rolling cigarettes. He had no stomach for crime, however. When we were in the outskirts of Romton, Paddy noticed a bottle of milk on a doorstep, evidently left there by mistake. He stopped, eyeing the bottle hungrily. 'Christ!' he said, 'dere's good food goin' to waste. Somebody could knock dat bottle off, eh? Knock it off easy.' 15

I saw that he was thinking of 'knocking it off' himself. He looked up and down the street; it was a quiet residential street and there was nobody in sight. Paddy's sickly, chap-fallen face yearned over the milk. Then he turned away, saying gloomily: 'Best leave it. It don't do a man no good to steal. T'ank God, I ain't never stolen nothin' yet.' 20

He had two subjects of conversation, the shame and come-down of being a tramp, and the best way of getting a free meal. His ignorance was limitless and appalling. He once asked me, for instance, whether Napoleon lived before Jesus Christ or after. Another time, when I was looking into a bookshop window, he grew very perturbed because one of the books was called OF THE IMITATION OF CHRIST. He took this for blasphemy. 'What de hell do dey want to go imitatin' of HIM for?' he demanded angrily. He could read, but he had a kind of loathing for books. On our way from Romton to Edbury I went into a public library, and, though Paddy did not want to read, I suggested that he should come in and rest his legs. But he preferred to wait on the pavement. 'No,' he said, 'de sight of all dat bloody print makes me sick.' 25 30

Like most tramps, he was passionately mean about matches. He had a box of matches when I met him, but I never saw him strike one, and he used to lecture me for extravagance when I struck mine. His method was to cadge a light from strangers, sometimes going without a smoke for half an hour rather than strike a match.

Nevertheless, he was a good fellow, generous by nature and capable of sharing his last crust with a friend; indeed he did literally share his last crust with me more than once. He was probably capable of work too, if he had been well fed for a few months. But two years of bread and margarine had lowered his standards hopelessly. 35

**SOURCE B:** Taken from the *Daily Mail Online*, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

***Nuisance beggar caught with £800 in his pocket for just three days scrounging....and police say he's not even homeless!***

A beggar that police believe isn't even homeless has boasted of raising £800 in just three days. The unidentified man was found to be carrying the substantial sum of money when officers arrested him in Nottingham city centre on an unrelated matter on February 4<sup>th</sup>, but they were forced to let him keep the cash when they could find no evidence to prove he had obtained it illegally.

Nottinghamshire Police now fears the man could be one of 10 'hardcore' beggars operating in the city, none of who are thought to be genuinely homeless or in need of help. Police officers originally arrested the unidentified man last week after he failed to turn up at Lincolnshire Court on an unrelated matter. Upon searching him they discovered a haul of £800 in notes and coins in his pockets. Police said that although the man is well known as a prolific beggar, they were forced to hand the money back to him as he had been arrested for something else and it could not be proven that he had broken any law in obtaining it. The man was later released without charge. 5 10

A police spokeswoman told Mail Online: 'As far as we know the man isn't actually homeless. He is just sitting shivering and people feel sorry for him. If he doesn't actually ask for money, he hasn't broken the law.'

She added: 'People will just feel sorry for him and say 'here's a tenner mate'. That's what we believe to be happening. The money may have been taken away for safe-keeping after his arrest but it will definitely be handed back to him, if it hasn't been already,' she went on to say. Officers say the large sum of money suggests the man may be one of a group of all-British 'hardcore' beggars they fear are operating in the city. 15

Speaking to the Nottingham Post, Chief Inspector Shaun Ostle of Nottinghamshire Police said: 'This shows they are basically conning people. He said it was three days' work. Finding that amount of money on someone like that doesn't surprise us any more – which is perhaps the more worrying thing, really'. Mr Ostle says he believes some of the group have been posing as Big Issue sellers in the city, adding: 'They have been stopped before with similar amounts on them. It just shows that when some of these people ask for money it is just a scam. People need to understand they are being conned.' He went on to say: 'These people have more than enough so that they don't need to go on begging. 20 25

The news comes just months after another man boasted to police of making £700 a week while begging in Nottingham city centre. He is said to have used a taxi to travel between begging hotspots and was given so much food by members of the public that he had to throw vast quantities of it away. 30

The Nottinghamshire Police spokeswoman said: 'The message here really is not to give to people on the street. There are plenty of options available to people, through charities and hostels. If you give to people on the street you really have no idea who that money is going to,' she added.

**Q1: Read Source A, lines 1 to 18.**

**Choose four statements below which are TRUE.**

- Paddy was a tallish man, aged about fifty five
- Paddy, though a tramp, takes pride in his appearance
- Paddy's eyes were blue
- Orwell travelled with Paddy for two months
- Paddy had been unemployed and homeless for two years
- Paddy was ashamed at living on the streets as a tramp
- Paddy had served two months in the war

**Q2: Refer to Source A and Source B. Write a summary to explain the different attitudes of each of the writers towards the homeless.**

*Aim to write 100 – 150 words.*

**Q3: Refer to the extract below, taken from Source B.**

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**How does the writer use language to convey a negative attitude to beggars?**