Chapter 21

**Knowledge based**

1. Why is the welfare state an important topic for comparative political science?
2. What makes a risk a social risk?
3. Are left-wing parties that promoted the expansion of the welfare state also the main defenders of the welfare state?
4. What non-political processes have stimulated the growth of the welfare state?
5. Which are the three worlds of welfare capitalism?

**Critical thinking**

1. Why is an exclusive focus on the welfare *state* misleading if one tries to understand how a nation provides work and welfare?
2. Why is it that the more we target benefits at the poor only and the more concerned we are with creating equality via equal public transfers to all, the less likely we are to reduce poverty and equality?
3. Does the welfare state reduce poverty and inequality?
4. Why does globalization not necessarily lead to the downsizing of the welfare state?
5. Why are welfare states so resilient?