There is a paradox at the heart of our civilisation. Individuals want more income. Yet as society has got richer, people have not become happier. Over the past 50 years we have got better homes, more clothes, longer holidays and, above all, better health. Yet surveys show clearly that happiness has not increased in the US, Japan, Continental Europe or Britain.

Layard, R. (2003) The Secrets of Happiness, *New Statesman*, 3 March 2003.

Paraphrased Part

The heart of our civilisation has a paradox. People want more income, yet as society gets richer happiness has not increased.

Over the last fifty years we have nicer homes, more clothes, more luxurious holidays and better health. Surveys clearly show that in the US, Japan, Britain or Europe happiness levels have not increased.