

## Tekst 8 Class conscious

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- ANDREW MARTIN**  
**class  
conscious**
- 1 I was buying a Tube ticket this week when a quite smartly dressed young woman approached me and said: “Excuse me, do you know the date?” I told her, and she nodded, reflecting on the answer for a while, before asking, “Could you spare me some change for the ticket machines?”
- 2 She was a beggar but I noted that she had cleverly framed her request in middle-class terms. The implication of her asking the date was that she was considering some typically middle-class act, like renewing a travelcard, or writing a cheque.
- 3 This tactic is increasingly common among beggars, and represents an inversion of the normal approach, which is to look needy. The new type of beggar tries his or her best to look the opposite, having realised that in our society people with money are more relaxed about giving money to other people with money than to people without any.
- 4 These new beggars have taken to heart the government’s claim that we’re all middle class now, so the days of “Spare a pound for a cup of tea, guv?” are numbered. Henceforth it’ll be, “Spare the price of a double capuccino and carrot cake, guv?”

*New Statesman*

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- 1p **39** What is the example in the first two paragraphs meant to illustrate?
- A** The fact that more and more middle-class people are forced to beg for money.
  - B** The idea that homeless people are more aggressive than they have ever been.
  - C** The subtle and persuasive ways in which beggars ask for money these days.
- 1p **40** Welke alinea van de column van Andrew Martin is spottend bedoeld?  
Noteer het nummer van deze alinea.