*Theoretical Perspectives & Education Knowledge Organiser*

**Theoretical**

**Perspective**

**View on the education**

**Key Names & Research**

**Key Term**

**Definition**

Particularistic

Values

Values associated with a small group

such as a family and often there are

different expectations for different

individuals

The theory states that the main purpose of edu-

cation is to allocate people to

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Durkheim

Functionalism &

Meritocracy

Davis and Moore (1967)

positions based on their ability and

talent. Inequality is education is not a problem

because it helps the most

Universalistic

Values

These are associated with society as

a whole, rather than a group within

society it. These values are applied

equally to everyone.

talented to rise to the top. It transmits culture to

children through socialisation.

Meritocracy

A system that is based on fair

competition and where talent and

effort decide who succeeds.

This theory states that education

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Bowls & Gintis

Paul Willis

Ivan Illich

Marxism & Ideology teaches people that inequality is not a

problem and it is a tool to oppress the working

classes and that there will be

Ladder of

Those who believe that education is

meritocratic believe it offers

opportunities for talent and

hardworking people.

unequal access to power and wealth.

opportunity

Feminists believe that education can gives wom-

Feminism & Gender en the opportunity for social justice and to have

access to work that would have been traditional

male work.

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Oakley

Kelly (1987)

Hidden Curriculum

Ideology

What is learnt in school that is not part

of the formal curriculum and

timetabled subjects.

Culley (1986)

McCabe (2014)

Rosenthal & Jacobson (1968)

Coard (1971) Mirza (1992)

Stanworth (1983)

Duckworth et al (2009)

Gorward & Gerwitz

Murray

Refers to a set of ideas that attempt to

explain why society is organised in the

way it is.

Interactionists &

educational

attainment

Focus on attainment and the quality and type of

relationships that occur within school rather than

look at social structures and organismal practice.

Hierarchy

Refers to different levels within an

organisation, the higher up the

position is the more power and

authority it has.

New Right &

Shares the view of meritocracy but sees failure

as a result of lack of will and ability to succeed.

They believe the state cannot run a good educa-

tion system because there is not enough compe-

tition or power for

Symbolic

When a social group is either absent

from the media or misrepresented.

Education policy

annihilation

Transgressive

women

When women do not conform to tradi-

tional stereotypes and expectations,

they are seen as going beyond their

roles.

improvement schemes.

Postmodernism &

Education.

This theory suggests teachers pass on

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Chomsky

Hill (2002)

Discourse

This refers to how we think and

discuss ideas about people society

and how it is organised.

knowledge to children and that culture is some-

thing young people should learn in school and

teachers should train children in social values.