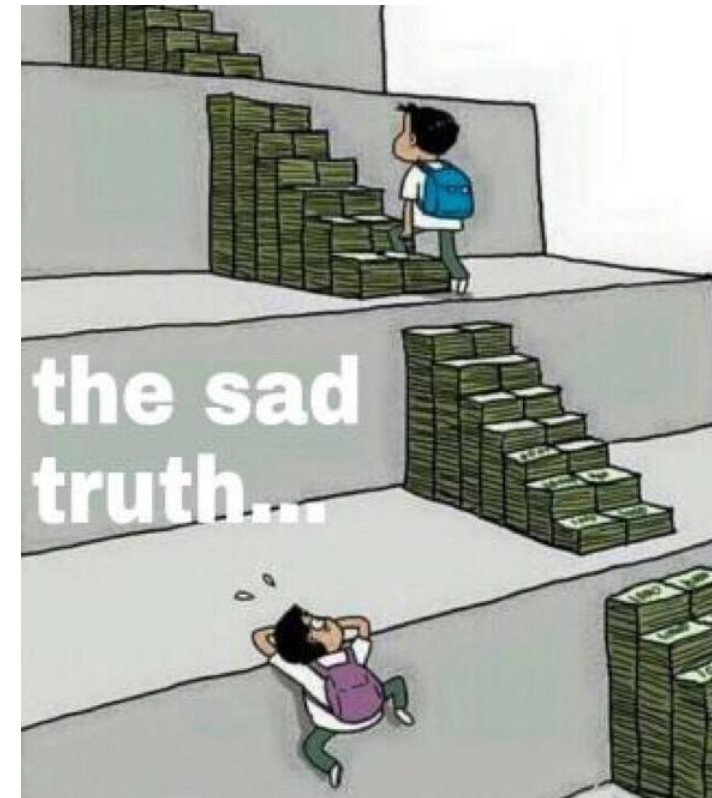


Differential educational attainment:

<p>2. What are the patterns and trends of educational inequalities?</p>	<p>Differential educational achievement by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social class • ethnicity • gender <p>Educational inequalities in a global context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the global 'gender apartheid' in education • the disparity in educational provision around the world 	<p>consider the inter-relationship between social class, gender and ethnicity.</p>
--	--	--

Key questions	Content	Learners should:
<p>3. How can differential educational achievement be explained?</p>	<p>Explanations for differential educational achievement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inside and outside school factors • structural, material and cultural factors • theoretical approaches • functionalism • Marxism • interactionism • social democratic • feminism • New Right 	<p>consider differential educational achievement in relation to social class, gender and ethnicity.</p>



Educational inequalities in a global context:



Who? What? Why?

Educational inequalities in a global context:

Global gender inequalities in education:

Watch the [video clips](#). Identify:

- Evidence of global gender inequality in education
- Reasons for this gender inequality
- The impact of limiting education for girls

Educational inequalities in a global context:

Read the information on pages 147-151

Use the information to do the following tasks:

Global gender inequalities in education:

1. Explain what is meant by 'global *gender apartheid*'
2. Explain the aims and findings of the UN regarding this
3. Explain the feminist criticisms of the UN's approach
4. How is gender apartheid measured?
5. Summarise the reasons identified by UNESCO for gender inequalities.
6. Summarise the evaluative points

7. Complete the activity on page 149

Educational inequalities in a global context:

Watch the video clip – what has led to [low levels of education](#) in the DRC?

Read the information on pages 147-151. Use the information to do the following tasks:

Inequalities in educational provision:

1. Summarise the evidence of inequalities globally relating to:
 - Poverty and education
 - Ethnic inequalities
 - Locality
2. Complete the activity on page 151.



Q7* In what ways are there differences in educational provision across the world? **[10]**

Explanation of evidence (ways / reasons)

AO1 = 6 marks AO2 = 4 marks

3 x PEEL

Identify point / reason

Each paragraph needs to be explained using sociological evidence (concept, sociologist, theory)

Evidence (as a whole) must be fully explained in relation to the point made.

e.g. In what ways does education contribute to socialisation in society? [10]

Timing: 10 minutes

AO1: Knowledge and understanding (6 marks)

Level	Marks	Generic Mark Scheme questions 4, 7 and 10
4	6	The candidate demonstrates an excellent knowledge and understanding of a range of sociological material; the material is generally accurate and detailed. There is a well-developed line of reasoning which is clear and logically structured. The information presented is relevant and substantiated.
3	4-5	The candidate demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of either a range of sociological material or some material in detail. The material is generally accurate but underdeveloped. There is a line of reasoning presented with some structure. The information presented is in the most-part relevant and supported by some evidence.
2	2-3	The candidate demonstrates a basic knowledge and understanding of some sociological material. The response lacks range and detail. The response may lack clarity at times and contain some inaccuracies. The response may be partial and undeveloped. The information has some relevance and is presented with limited structure. The information is supported by limited evidence.
1	1	The candidate demonstrates a limited knowledge and understanding of sociological material. Very little relevant sociological material is presented; the response contains considerable inaccuracy and lacks clarity. The information is basic and communicated in an unstructured way. The information is supported by limited evidence and the relationship to the evidence may not be clear.
AO2: Application (4 marks)		

Level	Marks	Generic Mark Scheme questions 4, 7 and 10
4	4	The candidate demonstrates an excellent ability to apply relevant sociological material. The material is consistently and frequently related to the question.
3	3	The candidate demonstrates a good ability to apply sociological material. The material is generally relevant but is explicitly related to the question only occasionally.
2	2	The candidate demonstrates a basic ability to apply sociological material. The material is related to the question mainly implicitly and lacks focus on the question. The response may be generalised.
1	1	The candidate demonstrates a limited ability to apply sociological material. The material is tangential to the question and of marginal relevance.
	0	No relevant application.

Model answer: In what ways are there differences in educational provision across the world?

One way in which there are differences in educational provision across the world is due to the ability of males and females to access education. It has been argued that across the world roughly 368m children are out of education, suggesting that there are a large number of children lacking any form of education. In less developed countries 15m girls and 10m boys are lacking in any form of education, suggesting that due to the economic situation of the country this is disabling a huge amount of children from gaining an education.

There is also evidence that in some countries on male children have the ability to go to school. This is known as Gender Apartheid. UNESCO have identified a number of areas where males are favoured in education; these include Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Venezuela. The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) has been working to help Afghan Women and Girls since 1996 with their campaign to stop gender apartheid.

It can also be noted that there is a difference between the social class of the individual and the educational availability of them around the world. In Niger, roughly 79% of the richest people have access to education compared to 0% of the poorest. This statistic demonstrates how in some countries educational access depends on social class. This is the same in higher education where a middle class individual is twice as likely to go to university as an individual from the working class.

**What things do you need
to do well in your
education?**

Is education meritocratic then?

Read this
[article?](#)

Does this
matter?

Why?

Parent school donations 'exacerbating inequality'

By Tom Barton
BBC Victoria Derbyshire programme

🕒 11 December 2019 | 💬 64

f 🗨️ 🐦 ✉️ Share



Some schools say they need donations for "necessities", such as books

Differential educational attainment by class: Explanations

Read the information on page 114

1. Explain what is meant by 'equality of opportunity' and why this is considered important
2. Explain how quantitative data have been used to measure class and educational attainment
3. Explain the interpretivist criticisms of this.
4. Read the activity on pages 114-115. Talk through each of the tasks with your partner.
5. Record the key trends in educational attainment by class in your booklet.

The attainment gap: its impact on children and young people continued

The latest official figures show the scale of the challenge, in particular for students from disadvantaged backgrounds*. By age 19 over 164,000 students – 30% of the total cohort – had still not achieved a good standard of recognised qualifications in English and maths. Worryingly, this includes a majority (50.2%) of all students who had been eligible for free school meals.

These qualifications are prerequisites for progressing into secure, good quality employment, including apprenticeships; as well as into further study, including higher education.

Failure to reach this level is, therefore, a personal and individual tragedy, the cumulative impact of which can lead to long-term, structural challenges – political, economic and social – for the nation as a whole.

Key point: a majority of 19 year-olds who have been eligible for free school meals leave education without a good standard of recognised qualifications in English and maths.

Source Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) which is an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement.

Historic trends

The attainment gap is a stubborn, persistent problem in all phases of education. We see this in Early Years all the way through to GCSE...^{vi}

Attainment gaps over time for disadvantaged pupils in primary and secondary school (months)

SCHOOL TYPES	YEAR	EARLY YEARS	PRIMARY SCHOOL	SECONDARY SCHOOL
State-funded mainstream	2007	5.5	12.3	21.9
	2008	5.3	11.8	21.8
	2009	5.2	11.5	21.7
	2010	5.0	11.0	20.7
	2011	4.9	11.1	20.2
	2012	4.9	10.2	19.6
	2013	4.7	10.0	19.0
	2014	4.6	9.9	19.0
	2015	4.3	9.6	19.2
	2016	4.3	9.5	18.9
	2015-2016 Change	-0.1 (-1%)	-0.1 (-1%)	-0.3 (-1%)
2007-2016 change (%)	-1.2 (-22%)	-2.8 (-23%)	-3.0 (-14%)	
All state-funded	2016	4.3	9.5	19.3

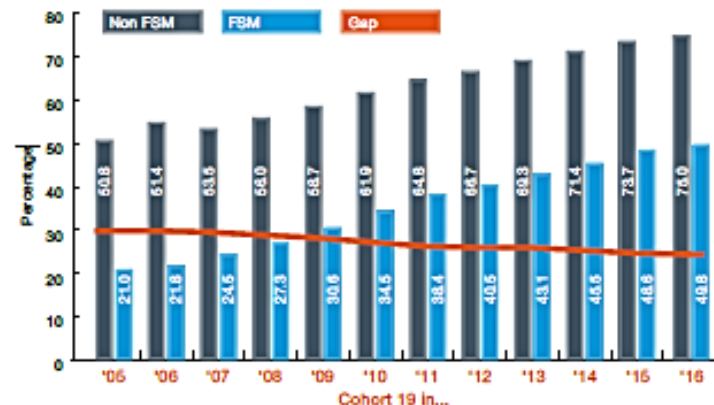
vi 'Closing the Gap? Trends in educational attainment and disadvantage', Education Policy Institute (July 2017)

vii 'Level 2 and 3 attainment in England: Attainment by age 19 in 2016', Department for Education (March 2017)

... and also in post-16 attainment:^{vi}

Level 2 English and maths attainment by age 19 by FSM eligibility at 15

England, young people in state-funded schools at academic age 15, cohorts 19 in 2005-2016



While the gap in schools has narrowed over the past decade, on current trends it will take another 50 years to close it, according to the Education Policy Institute.

Key point: while the attainment gap has reduced a little over the past decade, it is still significant and progress in narrowing it is too slow.

10 mark question:

In what ways are lower socio-economic classes deprived in education?

3 paragraphs, each explaining a distinct way that education contributes to society

Each paragraph needs 3 pieces of sociological evidence (concept, sociologist, theory)

Evidence (as a whole) must be fully explained in relation to the point made.

Essentially 3 x PEE

Use the information from the class presentations, the textbook and the activity on page 114-115 to answer this question.

What additional costs do parents have to pay in order for their children to do well in school?



	Available at Deane and Sons	Available in High street stores	Price at Deane and Sons
Girls' compulsory uniform			
Navy Academy blazer with purple trim and Academy logo	✓		From £35.95
White formal shirt (pack of two)	✓	✓	From £14.99 (Deane and Sons price, also available on High Street)
Mid grey formal school trousers	✓	✓	From £15.95 (Deane and Sons price, also available on High Street)
Academy 'house' tie	✓		£6.50
Academy tartan skirt - knee length	✓		From £29.95
Black tights or socks	✓	✓	Various
Plain black shoes		✓	Various
Boys' compulsory uniform			
Navy Academy blazer with purple trim and Academy logo	✓		From £35.95
White formal shirt (pack of two)	✓	✓	From £14.99 (Deane and Sons price, also available on High Street)
Mid grey formal school trousers	✓	✓	From £15.95 (Deane and Sons price, also available on High Street)
Academy 'house' tie	✓		£6.50
Black socks	✓	✓	Various
Plain black shoes		✓	various

	Available at Deane and Sons	Available in High street stores	Price at Deane and Sons
Girls' sports kit			From £12.99
Black and green polo shirt with Academy logo	✓		
Black and green skort	✓		From 12.35
Black and green sports socks	✓		From 4.15
Black and green hooded top with Academy logo	✓		From 17.40
Training shoes (non-marking sole)		✓	Various
Mouthguards	✓	✓	From 4.95
Boys' sports kit			
Black and green rugby shirt	✓		From £20.75
Black and green polo shirt with Academy logo	✓		From 12.99
Black and green shorts	✓		From 8.25
Black and green sports socks	✓		From 4.15
Black and green hooded top with Academy logo	✓		From 17.40
Training shoes (non-marking sole)		✓	Various
Football boots		✓	Various
Mouthguards	✓	✓	From 4.95

Work in groups to find out how much it would cost to kit out your child for Kings, include their uniform, sports kit, classroom equipment and a school trip.

Halifax Building Society (2006)

- A private education for a child between the ages of three to 18, will cost £326,000.
- For top private schools such as Millfield, Winchester and Eton, fees are approaching £25,000 a year.
- To get into the catchment area for one of the top-performing comprehensives in England you can expect to pay tens of thousands of pounds extra for a house.

Millfield: Termly fees 2018

Senior School	
Day (Years 9 - Upper Sixth)	£8,535
Boarding (Years 9 - Upper Sixth)	£12,870

[Eton: Fees](#): See website

To what extent do material factors explain different attainment levels between social groups?



What is the debate about?

- Material deprivation theories suggest that the working class experience poverty and deprivation.
- This leads to the failure of their children to benefit from the education system
- Whilst the negative impact of deprivation on education is recognised, it is not a sharp research focus in contemporary Britain, where the effectiveness of schools is considered to be more important for children's success.

What are the issues?

- Children who grow up in poverty have the lowest levels of educational attainment.
- The gap between the poor and the remainder of the population is growing as the children grow older.
- Fewer from the working class go on to further and higher education.
- Sociologists explain this by referring to material deprivation.

The key theories associated with material deprivation theory are **Marxists** and **Social Democrats**.

What is material deprivation?

- Material deprivation is when people do not have items considered to be 'necessities' by a majority of the population.
- The fewer items a family has, the greater the degree of deprivation

Is this still a problem in the UK?



- According to government statistics,
 - ▣ The UK has one of the worst records in Europe for high levels of child poverty.
 - ▣ In 2007, 2.9 million British children were poor
 - ▣ In 2004, one in four British children were poor
 - ▣ 10.2 per cent of children in the UK (1.3 million) are classified as being in severe poverty.
- There is a strong association between parents' low level of educational attainment and severe child poverty.

Why is this?

The impact of deprivation



- Children, who live in poverty often live in small, and sometimes cold houses.
- Poverty can also lead to sickness which could in turn lead to absence from school.
- There may be little space to work.
- Some children have to work in the evening and at weekends to get money and therefore there is no time for homework and preparing for examinations.
- There is no money available to buy resources to support the child's education, such as books, a computer, additional tuition etc.



Halsey, Heath and Ridge (1980s)

- Published the famous longitudinal study *Origins and Destinations*.
- Poverty was identified as a critical factor in school failure.

(Halsey identified as a socialist but essentially comes under the Marxist heading)



Wedge and Prosser (1974)

- Longitudinal study of children born in one week in 1958.
- They were studied at age 11.
- Poor children are disadvantaged in terms of
 - low income
 - poor housing
 - family composition (single parent or many siblings)
- Such children are more often ill, lighter at birth, and do less well in school compared with advantaged children.

Smith and Noble (1995)



- There are a number of additional hidden costs that are part of maintaining a child's education,
 - school uniform,
 - school dinners,
 - travelling to school,
 - necessary equipment,
 - educational trips with the school

Labour Force Survey (1999)



- 80% of those from professional social classes go on to higher education.
- 14% of those from unskilled backgrounds go on to higher education.
- When higher education opportunities expand, it is the middle classes who are more likely to take advantage of the increased investment by government.
- Fewer than 1% of those in unskilled work have a degree or higher qualification.
- 66% of professional people have a university degree.

Fernstein (2003)

- The educational achievement of a 26 year old could be accurately predicted by the wealth of the household when the child was 22 months.
- Gaps were already opening up in attainment levels between children of different social background before they had all of their first teeth.



Hutchings (2003)

- If students from low-income families went to university, they often had to get evening jobs in order to pay for their course.
- This may then possibly have the effect of them obtaining a lower degree or even having to leave the course before completing it.

Kingdon and Cassen (2007)



- Factors associated with poverty such as free school meals, low levels of family employment, single parent families and poor educational qualifications of parents all contributed to low achievement.
- Disadvantaged children also attend schools that rate low in the league tables.

Government policies designed to support poor children in education



Funding

- The government has persisted in tackling problems of underachievement by creating policies that are directed at changing schools and teachers.
- School funding under the New Right was directed towards high achieving schools because it was believed that if schools were in competition for funding, they would all improve.

EMA

- In 2002, the British government announced that it was providing a grant of £30 per week from September 2004 onwards to help some 16-19 year old students to stay in education.
- This scheme had already been piloted in some parts of the country and evidence showed a 6% increase in those who had stayed on in education. (DfES 2002)
- Unfortunately, these grants were small, and therefore there was insufficient assistance available for all those who wished to continue their education.
- 2010 – New Conservative government abolished EMA.

Pupil premium:

- Introduced by Liberal Democrats in coalition government
- Extra money is provided for students who qualify for free school meals (FSM)
- This is intended to be used to provide equipment, trips etc in order to make up the gap between rich and poor.
- Difficult to determine success – evidence suggests that the attainment gap between PP and non-PP students hasn't closed (by some measures increased).

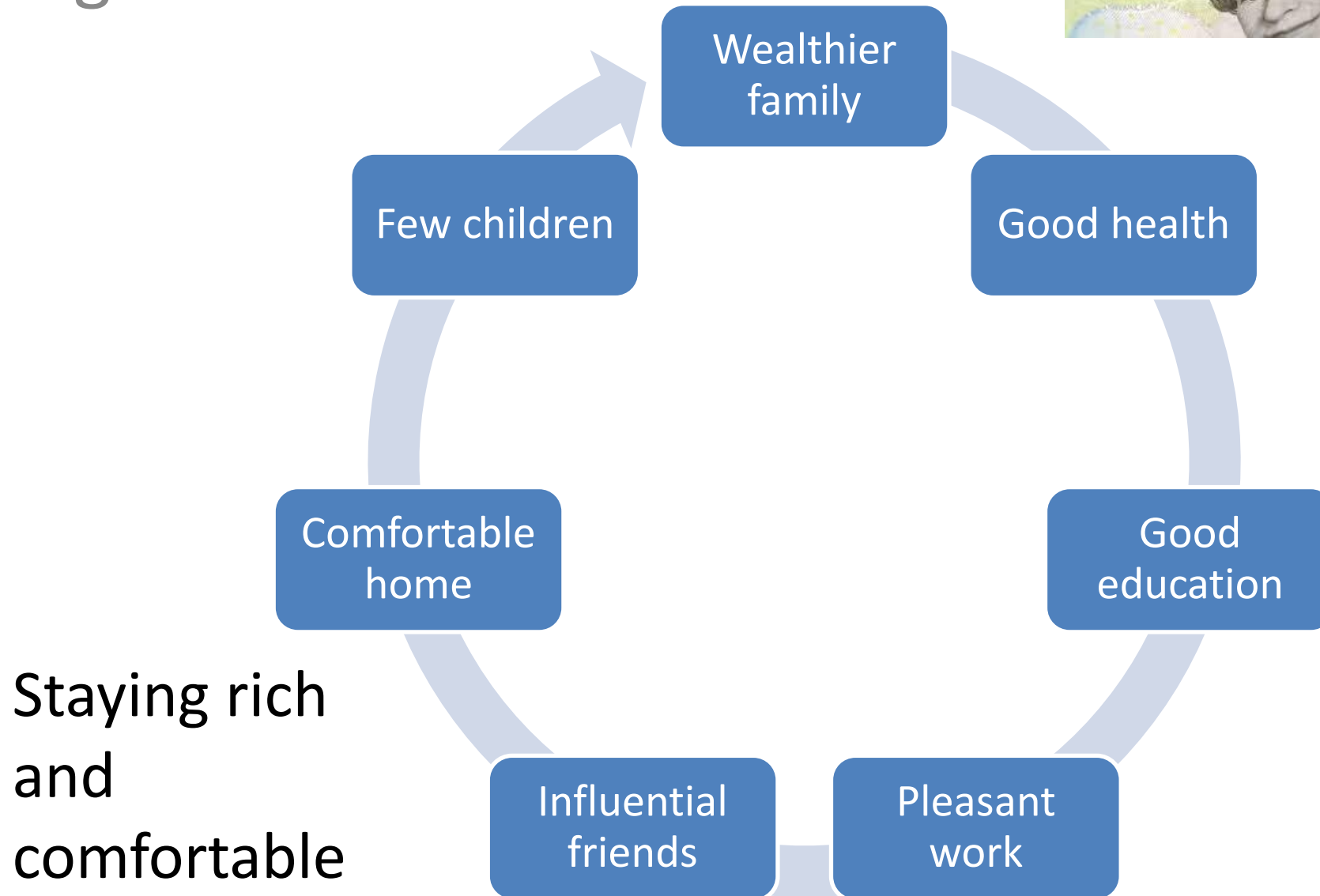
2016 – Conservative government proposes reintroduction of grammar schools to help ‘poor’ children



Arguments for:

Arguments against:

How does a higher family income assist a pupil from a middle class background?



Summary of key points



- Poverty has a negative impact on school attainment
- Education is a route to a comfortable and healthy life
- Many children in the UK are poor and will not achieve their full potential in education
- Rich people have strategies to avoid their children becoming poor – education is part of that process

Evaluation:

Read the evaluation of material factors on page 118.

Summarise the arguments.

Task:

Read the items in the activity on pages 118-119

Answer the questions at the end of the activity.



Q7* In what ways does poverty have an impact on educational attainment [10]

Explanation of evidence (ways / reasons)

AO1 = 6 marks AO2 = 4 marks

3 x PEEL

Identify point / reason

Each paragraph needs to be explained using sociological evidence (concept, sociologist, theory)

Evidence (as a whole) must be fully explained in relation to the point made.

e.g. In what ways does education contribute to socialisation in society? [10]

Timing: 10 minutes



Do the working classes have a culture that leads to educational failure?

To what extent do cultural factors explain different attainment levels between social groups?

What is the debate about?

- Cultural deficit theories suggest that the working class have a culture which leads to educational failure for its children. They tend to claim that:
 - * The working class put less emphasis on formal education as a means of personal achievement, and see less value in staying on at school beyond the school-leaving age.
 - * Members of the working class place less value on attaining a higher occupational status than the middle class.
 - * There are cultural differences between the classes which act as a barrier to success for some children.



Do the working classes have a culture that leads to educational failure?

To what extent do **cultural factors** explain different attainment levels between social groups?

What are the issues?

Is there a culture or cycle of disadvantage affecting working class children?

Is the culture of working class people **different** or **deficient** in some way from the culture of the middle classes?

Cultural explanations are usually associated with

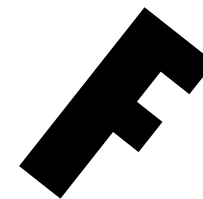
- **Functionalist** theorists
- **New Right** theorists

(and criticised by **Marxists...**)





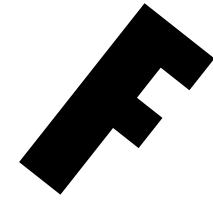
Oscar Lewis (1950s)



- Introduced the idea of the **culture of poverty**.
- Poor people develop distinct sub-cultural values to enable them to survive poverty, but which disadvantaged their children in school.
- As individuals, people feel helpless and disempowered.
- By the age of six or seven, children have absorbed the values of their culture and cannot take advantage of opportunities that may occur.



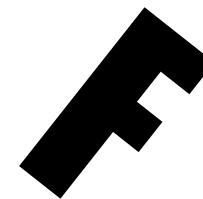
J W B Douglas (1964)



- Douglas says that middle class parents show a greater interest in the education of their children.
- There is an emphasis on high attainment in middle class homes.
- Middle class parents keep in touch with the educational progress of their children.
- Working class parents do not feel at ease in a middle class situation such as a school.



Hyman (1960s)



- Members of the working class believe that there is less opportunity for personal advancement for them.
- This belief is likely to be the basis for the low value put on education and a higher occupational status.
- It is a realistic assessment of the situation - the working class has less opportunity – however, the belief itself further reduces the opportunity.



Connor et al (2001)

Connor et al (2001) conducted focus group interviews with 230 students from 4 different FE colleges from a range of class backgrounds, some of whom had chosen to go to university and some who had not chosen to go to University.

The main findings were that working class pupils are discouraged from going to university for three main reasons:

- Firstly, such candidates want 'immediate gratification'. They want to earn money and be independent at an earlier age. This is because they are aware of their parents having struggled for money and wish to avoid debt themselves
- Secondly, they realise that their parents cannot afford to support them during Higher Education and did not like the possibility of them getting into debt
- Thirdly, they have less confidence in their ability to succeed in HE.



Basil Bernstein (1970s)

A linguist not a sociologist

- There are two language patterns in daily use - limited codes and extended codes.
 - Limited code is everyday spoken language. Short simple sentences are used and often details and explanations are omitted.
 - Extended code explains things in greater detail and uses long, complex sentences.
- Both languages are familiar to the middle class but only the limited code is used by the working class.
- Teachers in school use the extended code and therefore working class children are at a disadvantage from the outset.

Read the information on Bernstein.

1. Summarise the criticisms of Bernstein's work

2. Read the activity on pages 122-123. Answer the questions at the end of the activity



Leon Feinstein

Identified link between low income was related to the restricted speech code.

- Children of working-class parents tend to be more passive; less engaged in the world around them and have a more limited vocabulary.
- Children from middle-class households had a wider vocabulary, better understanding of how to talk to other people and were more skilled at manipulating objects.



THE NEW RIGHT

This view is very critical of working class culture, viewing them as agents of their own destruction.

UNDERCLASS THEORIES (1990S)

Charles Murray believes that children brought up in single parent families lack a male role model.

Discipline in families has decreased. Young men are not correctly socialised.

A culture develops that has these characteristics:

- Neglect and abuse of children
- Broken relationships
- Victimization by crime
- Despair and fatalism

Murray argued that these aspects were [genetic...](#)

N.R.



Dalrymple (2001)

- The British underclass have developed a culture of:
 - Passive thinking
 - Denial of agency and personal responsibility
 - Dishonesty and self-deception
 - Rationalizations for self-induced helplessness, such as "addiction"
 - Perverse, primitive, valueless sexualization
 - Absolute refusal to apply or accept judgment

N.B.



M

HOWEVER, FROM THE MARXISTS

Cultural deprivation is viewed in a different way; the working class are victims of the system

C. Wright-Mills (1950s)

Elite self-recruitment.

Members of the highest sectors of society prevent educational failure and protect their interests and those of their children by sending their children to the best public schools.

This allows them the chance to acquire the social skills and background to rise to the best and most powerful positions.

Pierre Bourdieu (1977)

The middle and upper classes have cultural capital as well as financial capital. They have an advantage over the working class because their parents give them support in terms of books and reading, literature, art, classical music, visits to museums, theatres and art galleries.

This culture is closer to the culture of the school, and therefore they are more likely to be successful.



Bourdieu: Cultural Capital Theory.



1. Why does Bourdieu reject cultural deprivation theory?
2. Explain what Bourdieu suggests is the main role of education (explain **cultural reproduction**)
3. What does Bourdieu mean by cultural capital?
4. How does the possession of cultural capital benefit the middle and upper classes in terms of education?
5. Explain what Bourdieu means when he suggests that one role of education is the 'social function of elimination'
6. Identify strengths of Bourdieu's work
7. Identify criticisms of Bourdieu's work

Read Bourdieu's study (p. 124), answer these questions, then do the activity on p. 125-126.



Comparison: New Right and New Left views of cultural deprivation

New Right

- The poor are to blame
- Poor people have developed a culture that is negative and selfish
- If the poor fail, it is their own responsibility.

New Left

- The structure of society is to blame.
- Poor people did not choose to live in poor surroundings
- If the poor fail, it is the responsibility of the culture we have created.



Summary of key points

- Those who are at the bottom of the class system do not have the values, attitudes and special skills that are essential for educational success.
- Children and their families are to blame for educational failure.
- Children who are culturally deprived are lacking in essential skills, attitudes and values.
- A number of researchers have alleged that there are patterns of class differences.

Evaluation of cultural deficit theory:

- ☹️ There is little evidence to support the underclass thesis.
- ☹️ Most social scientists tend to see the problems of the working class as being related to the structures of society.
- ☹️ It makes the working class take the blame for their own failure in education.
- ☹️ There is little that is practical that governments or schools can do to solve the problem of working class underattainment

Think of something that you can do really well.

How did you first realise that you were really good at this thing?

How did you feel when you began to realise that you had some talent?

Think of something that you do badly.

How did you first realise that you were really bad at this thing?

How did you feel when you began to realise that you had no talent?

If you were to describe these people,
what would you start with?



How do processes within school affect educational attainment?



Writers within the interpretive or interactional tradition of sociology (social action theory) are interested in the processes within schools which lead some children to failure.

What is interactionism (social action theory):

- Interactionism is also called interpretivism.
 - The methodology used is generally ethnomethodological
- It originated with the work of George H Mead.
- It looks at the detailed interaction between people.

How do processes within school affect educational attainment?



Writers within the interpretive or interactional tradition of sociology (social action theory) are interested in the processes within schools which lead some children to failure.

Herbert Blumer (1969)

"Human beings act toward things on the basis of the meanings they ascribe to those things."

"The meaning of such things is derived from, or arises out of, the social interaction that one has with others and the society."

"These meanings are handled in, and modified through, an interpretive process used by the person in dealing with the things he/she encounters."

How do processes within school affect educational attainment?



Writers within the interpretive or interactional tradition of sociology (social action theory) are interested in the processes within schools which lead some children to failure.

Master status:

A person's **master status** is the most obvious thing about that person.

It controls the way they are identified in public.

The master status becomes a **label** we attach to people.

Attitudes:

We have a tendency to behave in a certain way toward some people.

It can be both negative or positive

Teachers have attitudes built up over years of experience

How does this apply to schools?

Self-fulfilling Prophecies



- This occurs when our beliefs and expectations create reality
- Our beliefs and expectations influence our behaviour and others'
- 'Pygmalion' effect
 - person A believes that person B has a particular characteristic
 - person B may begin to behave in accordance with that characteristic

Rosenthal & Jacobson (1964)



- Went to a school and did IQ tests with kids and told teachers that the test was a “spurters” test
- Randomly selected several kids and told the teacher they were “spurters”
- Did another IQ test at end of year, “spurters” showed significant improvements in their IQ scores
- It is argued that this is because of their teachers’ expectations of them

- The study was unethical and cannot be repeated.
- The methodology was not reliable
- Teachers could not remember the names of the ‘spurters’
- The theory is not well supported by the statistics in the study

Despite the obvious problems with the study, it has been very influential and still forms part of the professional study for teachers.

The theory was repeated by Schools minister, Lord Adonis in 2006

Do you think this theory is good enough to account for school failure?



A screenshot of the METRO.co.uk website from Friday, November 3, 2006. The main headline is "Primary pupils 'let down by system'". The article text reads: "Ministers have admitted that progress in primary schools has stalled and many children who could get better grades are being let down by the education system. In too many schools, teachers' expectations of what children can achieve are 'unacceptably low', said schools minister Lord Adonis and children's minister Beverley Hughes. They said national test results for primary and secondary pupils presented 'a mixed picture' with some successes but falling standards among children aged seven and 14. The two ministers highlighted 'a number of challenges' for English schools in a joint letter to local authorities in which they urged councils to redouble their efforts to raise standards. The letter, dated October 27, said: 'There are still too many schools where expectations are unacceptably low and which let down the pupils who attend them. 'The provisional national results for 2006 present a mixed picture in this respect. We remain particularly concerned at the slow rate of progress in raising primary standards,' they said. Figures for national test results for 11 year-olds showed a record rise in the proportion reaching the expected standard - level 4 - for their age group in writing." The website also features sections for "VIDEOS", "PICTURES", and "WEATHER REPORTS for your area".

It was also wheeled out at a recent whole school teacher training session that we had at Kings...

The influence of teachers' expectations:



Hargreaves et al (1975)

Deviance in class rooms

The success of labelling is dependent on other factors such as:

- how often the label is used,
- does the pupil accept and respect the teacher's opinion,
- do other teachers support the label, and
- is the label used publicly or privately?

Read Hargreaves study on p. 127

Summarise the stages of how teachers classify students, according to Hargreaves

The influence of teachers' expectations:



Read the studies of Gillborn & Youdell (2001) and Dunne & Gazeley (2009)

Summarise the findings for each.

Lacey

- Pupils have different experiences of school. They are labelled and are often placed in different bands and sets.
- Schools set definite standards and expect pupils to behave in a particular way.
- Pupils see different meanings to their education and discover different ways of relating.
- Not every pupil is willing to conform to the images of an ideal pupil. If they fail to do this, pupils then form their own subcultures which reject some of the school's values.

In opposition ...

- Sukhnandan and Lee (1998) state that when comparing sets and streaming with mixed ability groups there wasn't a positive or a negative effect on a child's attainment at either primary or secondary school.
- Ireson and Hallam (2001) state pupil grouping has little influence on their general achievement.

Further evidence against ...

- Heidi Safia Mirza in *Young, Female and Black* found young black girls often did well in school to spite teachers.
- We don't have to accept labels; students can and do reject labels because people are reflexive.

Mac an Ghail (1988)

- Studied the 'Black Sisters', young women of African-Caribbean and Asian backgrounds in an inner-city sixth form college'.
- They were critical of the schools that had put them in sets and discriminated against them, and how their ability was neither considered nor encouraged.
- They decided that gaining qualifications was the best thing they could do, and they succeeded by being determined and by supporting each other.



Speaking like an expert – In pairs explain the following to your partner.

Self-fulfilling prophecy

Master status

Interactionism

Labelling theory

Anti-school subculture

Resistance

Teacher expectations

Ethnomethodology

**OUTLINE AND EVALUATE INTERACTIONAL
THEORIES OF WORKING CLASS
UNDERACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION (40)**

Write a detailed plan of your response to this
essay