

Education revision booklet



What do I need to know?

The Marxist view on the role of education	[]
The functionalist view on the role of education	[]
The history of the education system	[]
Types of schools (independent, selective, comprehensive)	[]
The hidden curriculum	[]
Streaming and setting	[]
Labelling and the self-fulfilling prophecy	[]
Ideal pupil	[]
Anti-school subcultures	[]
Material deprivation	[]
Cultural deprivation	[]
Parental attitudes	[]
Gender and education	[]
Ethnicity and education	[]



The role of education

Below are 5 of the main functions education performs in society. In the gaps write in the correct name of the perspective which would say that statement.

Functionalists believe that education is seen as performing a beneficial role in society.

Marxists view education as having a beneficial role for the powerful people in our society and brainwashing people to follow capitalist norms and values.

1. The economic role – teaching skills for work

_____ believe that schools teach the key skills and knowledge necessary for a modern, technical society

_____ believe that education reinforces the class system by ensure children of the poor learn the skills for low-paid jobs.

2. The selective role – choosing the most able people for the most important jobs.

_____ do not believe education provides equal opportunities for all.

_____ see the education system as a sieve, grading students according to ability and placing pupils into their most appropriate role in society.

3. The socialisation role – teaching norms and values.

_____ see education as socialising individuals into accepting the values of the most powerful group.

_____ believe education plays an important role in teaching the values and norms of society to each new generation.

4. Social control – teaching acceptance of rules and authority.

_____ argue that for society to function smoothly there must be some regulation.

_____ see social control in schools as reflecting social control in the wider society, which benefits the most powerful group.

5. The political role – teaching people to be effective citizens.

_____ see education as about learning society through education and will accept the political system.

_____ believe only certain political opinions and ideas are tolerated in education. Many of these ideas are from the powerful group.

Feminists primarily see education as a way for men to dominate women called **patriarchy**.

The history of the education system

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Advantages and disadvantages with independent and comprehensive schools

In the table below indicate with its to do with comprehensive or independent schools, then cross or tick whether you believe it to be an advantage or disadvantage.

Advantage or disadvantage	Comprehensive or independent school?	Tick or cross?
Smaller classes and better facilities resulting in better education for children.		
They try to break down social barriers.		
These schools accept lower standards.		
Better examination results.		
Students have to travel very long distances to school.		
They offer parents a limited choice.		
Better resources and facilities because of more funding.		
Tried to improve the failings of the Tripartite system.		
Some argue that they are only accessible to the rich.		
Less able students maybe held back.		
Do not mix with people from different backgrounds.		
They are larger so more subjects and facilities can be offered.		

In school factors affecting student performance

Using pages 172-173 design a mindmap which explains the following factors:-

- The hidden curriculum (and 3 examples of it);
- Streaming and setting;
- Labelling, self-fulfilling prophecy and peer groups;
- School subculture and anti-school subcultures (Paul Willis).



Material deprivation

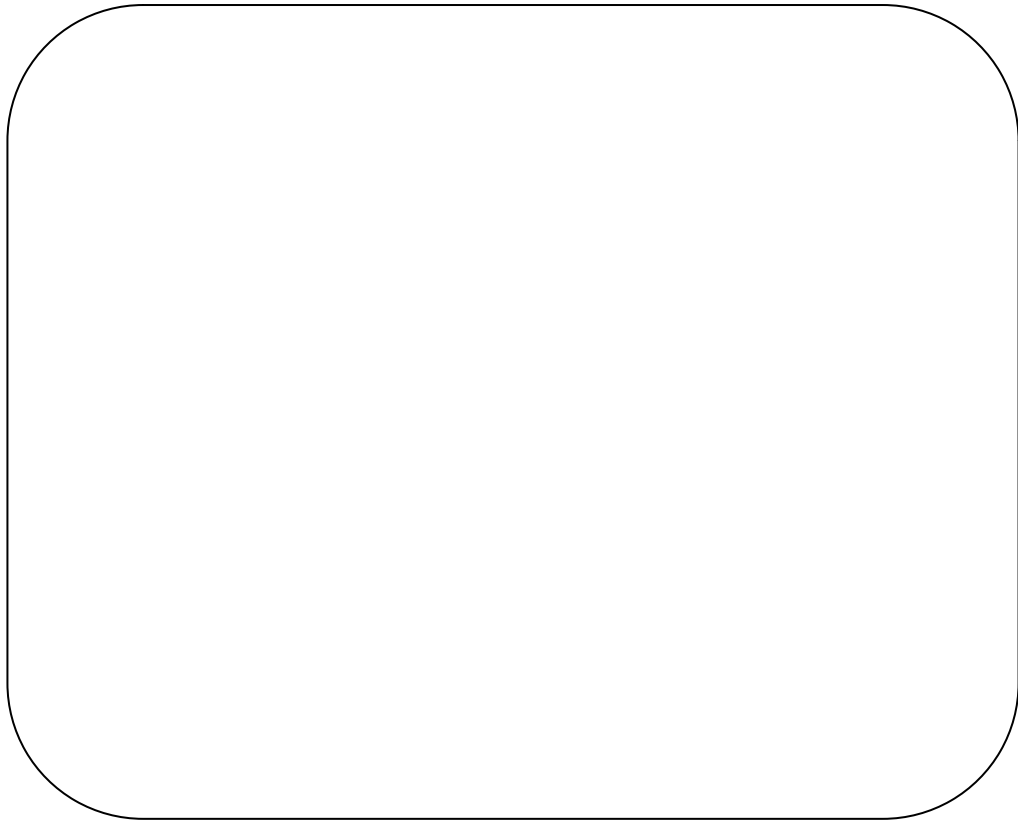
In the wordsearch below are various examples of how a lack in material goods can lead some working-class pupils underachieving. Use page 178 in the Blundell textbooks to help with this. Once done, write them in the spaces provided.

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N D K A T M V E N H X B C P S B X F U T
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J R H F D K D C M A E T O H T P A W H R
R H V O F Y K N N E C Q W G E Z U L J Q
K E S A M D M K O T B W D A C X V V O O
I K S Y Y E K K K C S G I A A K F I H I
P T C K W S T T L A G Q N D L J H X C D
S A T A J X W U M R C N G Y P J Z I B E
P S A R H N J P T D K U I K T V I J X Q
A D E D L K U F O O E I X V E Q X P Z Z
C A N N O T A F F O R D T R I P S C I G
F S Y L L U V K S D R I L B U L Y U T I
Q L W D E L J W G Z S O N E Q J R G Z Z
X W W L F C I T F B J V O G O N X O Q B
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- 2.
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Cultural deprivation

Using page 178, list the aspects associated with cultural capital (doing activities which might help a child's education) which might help benefit middle-class students. Don't forget the idea of speech codes and values (A*/A grade answers!



Parental attitudes

Middle-class parents are more likely to support their children with education. Below are some aspects to do with this, indicate whether they are either true or false.

Middle-class parental help	True or false
Help with homework?	
Less likely to attend parents evenings?	
Actively participate with schools?	

Gender and education

In the 1970s and 1980s there was concern about the underachievement of girls. In the past few years, this trend has reversed and boys are slipping behind. Using pages 180-181, design a mind map which shows the reasons for why girls are improving and why boys are underachieving.



Ethnicity and education

Some ethnic minorities do better than others. Indian and Chinese pupils outperform whites and Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Afro-Caribbean do the worst. Using pages 182-183, design a mind map which show the home and school reasons for why some groups underperform.



Past exam questions

Study **Item C**, then answer parts (a) to (d) which follow.

Item C

GCE A LEVEL EXAMINATION ENTRIES, UNITED KINGDOM – 2003/2004

Subject	Girls (Percentage Entry)	Boys (Percentage Entry)
Business Studies	47	53
Chemistry	51	49
English Literature	71	29
History	51	40
Maths	40	60
Physics	24	76

Source: adapted from ONS, © Crown copyright 2005

- (a) According to the information in **Item C**, which subject had the largest percentage entry of girls? (1 mark)

- (b) Explain briefly what sociologists mean by the hidden curriculum. (2 marks)

- (c) Identify and explain **one** reason for the educational under-achievement of boys. (3 marks)

- (d) To what extent would sociologists agree that a pupil's gender is the most important influence on his or her educational achievements? (9 marks)

Study **Item C**, and then answer parts (a) to (d) which follow.

Item C

ETHNICITY AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN BRITAIN

Chinese pupils were the most likely to gain 5 grades A* to C, with 79 per cent of the girls and 71 per cent of the boys obtaining these grades. Among Indian pupils 70 per cent of girls and 60 per cent of boys achieved 5 A* to C grades. Bangladeshi pupils have shown the greatest improvement at GCSE. Overall, girls continue to outperform boys.

Source: adapted from *Focus on Social Inequalities*, ONS, © Crown copyright, 2004

- (a) According to the information in **Item C**, did a higher proportion of Chinese boys or Indian girls obtain 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C? (1 mark)

- (b) Explain briefly **one** way that recent governments have tried to help schools to improve the level of their pupils' achievement. (2 marks)

- (c) Identify and explain **one** reason why girls outperform boys in examinations. (3 marks)

- (d) To what extent would sociologists agree that differences in home background are the most important cause of differences in educational achievement between ethnic groups? (9 marks)
