

#40DayChallenge Day 9

Item A

Some sociologists suggest that the most important factor in the educational achievement of students is their home background. Whilst some sociologists suggest that parenting practices and parental support have the biggest impact on achievement, other would suggest that the economic capital a family has is the most important factor in determining their child educational outcomes.

However, other sociologists would suggest that factors inside of school are often influenced by a child's home background and it is difficult to separate home and in-school factors.

Applying material from Item A, analyse **TWO** ways in which home backgrounds influence the educational achievement of different social classes (10)

One way in which home backgrounds influence the educational achievement of different social classes is through the different levels of 'parental support' (Item A) offered to different social classes. Middle class parents are perceived to have a more authoritarian parenting style which encourages their children to work harder in education and achieve at a higher level. This is amplified by middle class parents having higher expectations of their children as they are aware of the importance of education having achieved to a high level themselves. In contrast, some sociologists argue that working-class parenting styles are more lax on discipline and have lower expectations of their children. Working-class parents are less likely to be involved in their child's education, often as a result of their own bad experiences in education. However, some sociologists would suggest that working-class parents do understand the importance of education and push their children to achieve, but lack the educational capital to support their children in achieving their full potential.

A second way in which home backgrounds can influence the educational achievement of different social classes is through the 'economic capital' that their families possess. Middle class parents are more likely to be able to afford additional support for their children, such as private tuition, text books and online access. In contrast, working-class students often suffer from material deprivation, which not only effects their ability to acquire these additional resources but can have other cumulative impacts. Poor housing with problems such as damp can lead to illness and absence from school, hampering progress. Insecure housing could mean students move from school to school and fall behind. A lack of private space to complete work and responsibilities

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for looking after younger siblings due to parental shift work can also have negative impacts on their children's ability to achieve their full potential in education. However, some sociologists would argue that the government have provided schools with Pupil Premiums for students from disadvantaged areas and some colleges provided bursaries to tackle material deprivation. These measures however are deemed to be ineffective by many in tackling the gap in educational achievement between working and middle class students.