Marxism and Education

**Louis Althusser: The Ideological State Apparatus**
Education has replaced religion as the biggest ideological state apparatus and allows the ruling class to control the thoughts of the working class and accept inequality. This is done through convincing students they are not bright enough, when in reality the education system is stacked against them.

**Pierre Bourdieu: Culture Capital**
The education system disadvantages the working class because their culture and habitus is not respected by the education system. The education system as it is made up predominantly of middle class heads, teachers and politicians has a middle class culture and habitus and favours the culture and habitus of the middle classes who have more cultural capital.

**Bowles and Gintis: Hidden Curriculum and correspondence Principle**
Education is designed to mirror work through the hidden curriculum. Schools make students wear uniforms, reward hard work, given deadlines and timetables and the hierarchy of school introduces children to authority. Meritocracy is a myth, as students are set up for their future roles in work.

**Paul Willis: Learning to Labour**
Willis contradicts the idea that students are passive recipients of ideology and by conducting research with a group of working class lads suggested that not all students conform to education and some resist attempts by the education system to make them conform to middle class values.

**AO2 Application:** Evaluate the view that the main purpose of education is to reinforce inequality (30)

**AO2 Application:** Evaluate the view that the main purpose of education is to serve the needs of capitalism (30)

**AO3 EVALUATIONS**
No evidence of ISA, Althusser’s ideas based upon theory

Assumption that all students are passive recipients of information – many reject middle class ideology (Willis)

Some evidence of social mobility, particularly Tripartite System

Cultural capital is taught in schools through formal and informal curriculum - new Ofsted Common Inspection Framework