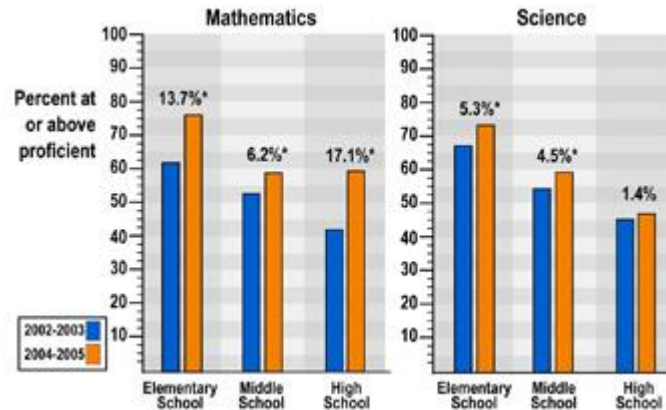


Social Class Achievement

Some students would be unhappy to discuss their families income with researchers or in the presences of their peers. Using questionnaires would be useful as it allows for anonymous responses

Achievement by social class is usually measured based upon quantitative variables – the receipt of Free School Meals and exam results. Both of these are measured objectively, but some sociologists would suggest that these measurements are socially constructed.



Researchers are often from more middle class backgrounds, so investigating lower class backgrounds may result in status differences between the researcher and the students/parents in interviews and observations. Students may be reluctant to take part in research or their responses and interactions may be perceived through the middle class viewpoint of the researcher.

Another way in which social class and achievement is measured is through pupil premium. However, not all children that are pupil premium complete their studies. Some non-pupil premium students may also struggle financially but schools may not be funded for them. This means that the definition of social class that is used could be flawed as it is not an accurate measurement of social class.

Social class is a difficult concept to quantify without examining a range of factors involving the student's upbringing. Economic deprivation, parental occupations, hobbies and leisure pursuits, tastes, attributes and cultural background could all influence a student's academic ability and so it is difficult to measure quantitatively.