

Top 5 External Factors



Material Deprivation

This is a lack of resources, most commonly felt by the working-class, and is usually measured by receipt of Free School Meals. Material Deprivation can have multiple effects on a student's performance. Poor housing could lead to absences, poor diet a lack of concentration, lack of internet access a failure to keep up with the rest of the class



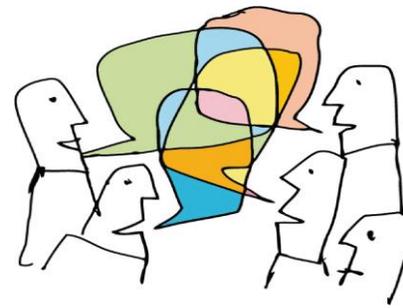
Parenting Styles

It is argued that the parenting styles of working-class parents are less authoritarian than those of middle class parents and therefore working class students are not pushed hard enough. It can also be argued that working-class parents do not have high enough expectations – a C may be okay – whereas middle class would settle for nothing but an A. Absent parents due to shift work a factor too



Cultural Background

The cultural backgrounds of middle class and working-class differ. Middle class are seen as more optimistic, future-orientated and prefer deferred gratification, whilst working-class are fatalistic, present-time orientated and prefer immediate gratification. It can be argued that much of this is due to the financial position they find themselves in and could be out of need



Linguistic Differences

Sociologists such as Bernstein argue that the working-class and middle class have different language codes. Working-class use a restricted code, one which is grammatically simple with a limited vocabulary. The middle class use the elaborated code and this is mirrored inside the school, with text books and teachers using a broad vocabulary and more complex grammatical devices. This puts the middle class at a distinct advantage



Cultural Capital and Habitus

The middle class cultural framework (habitus) is similar to the habitus of the school and this puts the middle class at an advantage as they feel at home. Furthermore, the middle class culture has more value (capital) than working-class culture when it comes to student's being selected for schools. Working-class cultural often at odds with school ethos, which would be an internal factor – referred to as symbolic violence as working-class students are demonised.

Differences in social class experience in education