



Education Scenarios

Social Class and Education

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In each of the scenarios you are presented with, outline some of the reasons why the student might be either:

- A) Underachieving
- B) Overachieving
- C) Having a positive experience
- D) Have poor attendance
- E) Have a negative experience



Student A

Ahmed lives with his parents and three siblings in a three bedroomed house. Both Ahmed's parents work shifts, and as Ahmed is the oldest often has to pick up their younger siblings from school and look after them until one of their parents comes home.

Ahmed shares a bedroom with his younger brother, while his two younger sisters share another room. The house is very crowded and the heating often breaks down in the winter.

Ahmed goes to a college 4 miles away from his home in the city centre. The college has a library that is open until late and has internet access.

Student B

Bethany lives in a deprived area and attends a school that has been put under special measures by Ofsted. As part of the special measures, the school has introduced a new strict dress code.

Bethany and her friends are often sent home for wearing too much make-up to school. Her parents split up when she was younger and she rarely sees her father. Her mother has complained to the school several times about Bethany being sent home.

Bethany has an older brother who also attended the school but was excluded several times and failed to achieve 5 passing grades in his GCSEs

Student C

Charles attends a high performing academy in an affluent suburb. His parents moved house when he was nine so they could be closer to the school and hired a personal tutor so that he could pass his SATs.

In school Charles is in the top sets for Maths, English and Science. His parents are very supportive of his education as his mother is a primary school head-teacher and his father is a lawyer. They often attend social events the school organises and are part of the parent teacher association

Charles lives with his parents and his sister in a large 4 bedroom house. Charles is dropped off at school each morning by his mother and goes to the after-school homework club before being picked up by his father. Charles also plays rugby and cricket for the school teams and goes to practice once a week after school.

Student D

Debbie attends her local state school. Several years ago it was turned into an academy after under-performing in GCSE results. Debbie is in year 9 and in the process of choosing her options for GCSE

Debbie struggles in Maths and has been entered for the foundation papers only. Her school has struggled to recruit maths teachers and she has had several different supply teachers over the last three years.

Debbie wants to go to college after doing her GCSEs, but her school has suggested that she study a range of vocational qualifications alongside her English, Maths and Science. Debbie has been given the choice of doing Health and Social Care, Textiles and Media Studies

Reasons for differences in educational achievement

EXTERNAL REASONS

- Material Deprivation
- Cultural Differences
 - Parental Attitudes
 - Socio-linguistic Differences
 - Cultural attitudes
- Cultural Capital

INTERNAL REASONS

- Labelling/Self Fulfilling Prophecy
- Setting and Streaming
- Anti and Pro-school Subcultures
- Marketisation
- Curriculum

Task

Using the material provided – find different pieces of research that would support the reasons given for the experiences of Ahmed, Bethany, Charles and Debbie.



What I know about class and education

Concept/Idea	
Explanation	
How does it work? (Analysis)	
Research to support idea	
Criticisms (Evaluation)	

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What I don't know about class and education

Concept/Idea	
Explanation	
How does it work? (Analysis)	
Research to support idea	
Criticisms (Evaluation)	

Concept/Idea	
Explanation	
How does it work? (Analysis)	
Research to support idea	
Criticisms (Evaluation)	



Find somebody in the room who has a different scenario to you and complete the other side of the worksheet – learning what you do not know

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Explanation	
How does it work? (Analysis)	
Research to support idea	
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