

Tackling the 30 Mark Educational Achievement Essay

June 2018 AQA Paper 1

1 Decode the question – remember there are two sides to achievement – under and overachievement

2 Mine the item – a 30 mark item will have several hooks for you to develop. Aim to use these hooks in your essay. First para useful for application, second usually for evaluations

3 Identify a range (minimum 5-6) explanations for the differences identified – include reasons that address both under and overachievement

4 In each paragraph **identify** an explanation for the differences, **develop** the explanation using **research**, explain how it **impacts** on the achievement of a **specific group** and finally **make a judgement** on how effective that explanation is.

0 4 Read **Item B** below and answer the question that follows.

Item B

Social class differences in achievement are found at all stages of the education system and sociologists have put forward several explanations for these differences. Some sociologists focus on factors outside school, such as the material circumstances of pupils' families or the ways in which parents socialise their children. Other sociologists see factors internal to the education system itself as responsible.

However, it can be argued that it is the interaction between these external and internal factors that produces class differences in educational achievement.

Applying material from **Item B** and your knowledge, evaluate sociological explanations of social class differences in educational achievement.

[30 marks]

Top Tip: Suggesting that in-school factors are influenced by student's home background demonstrates you can see the 'big picture' in education.

5 Conclusions (judgements) can be made throughout the essay for each reason, and in a short paragraph at the end suggesting the most useful explanation for the differences and why this is the case.