

# **Patterns and trends in Educational Achievement**

## **Patterns of inequality according to social class, gender and ethnicity**

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Name and date begun:

### **Time allocation:**

4 lessons

### **Learning objectives:**

- Students should understand that there are patterns of unequal attainment according to social groupings.
- These patterns are themselves changing and altering
- There are a variety of theories to account for these changes.

### **Key Concepts and vocabulary**

See your lesson notes for a list of ideologies and philosophies. These must be learned in addition to the following:

- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Attainment
- Value added data
- Underachievement
- Intelligence
- Ideology
- Universal values

### **Additional reading and references**

Haralambos and Holbourn (1995) *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives* p. 768

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus* p 293ff

Jorgensen *et al.* (1997) *Sociology: An interactive approach* p 144 - 52

Browne (1998) *An Introduction to Sociology 2<sup>nd</sup> edition* p 317 ff \*

**Make a note of any additional sources that you have used below**

## **Personal Development ideas**

- Look for Social Trends on the Internet and gather as much as you can on differential attainment.
- Look at the Times Educational Supplement and other professional education magazines and newspapers.

## **Overview of the debate**

- What is inequality?
- What patterns of inequality do we see in our education system?
- Who achieves?
- Who underachieves?

## **Revision tips**

- Be sure that you fully appreciate the patterns of attainment among the social groups
- Have some facts and figures to use in your writing.
- Make sure that you are fully briefed on the various government backed research projects which are being undertaken.

## **What you should have in your folder when this work has been completed correctly:**

- A clear explanation of each of the glossary terms
- Acceptable lesson notes.
- Evidence that you have collected statistical data on achievement.
- Evidence that you understand the meaning and the social implications of the patterns.
- You need to have list of some of the inquiries into differential achievement such as the Swann Report.