

# Patterns and Trends in Educational Achievement

Theories to account for differential achievement

---

Name and date begun:

## **Time allocation:**

4 lessons

## **Learning objectives:**

This is an enormous topic and so students should be aware that it underlies all of their studies in this topic.

- There are a variety of theories, educationalists favour some and politicians favour others.
- The main argument focuses whether failure is home based and therefore cultural or school based and therefore teacher created.
- Theories to account for educational failure tend to relate very strongly to the theoretical perspectives in which they are located.

## **Key Concepts and vocabulary**

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

- Functionalism and education
- Meritocracy
- Hidden curriculum
- Culture of poverty
- Labelling theory and the self fulfilling prophecy
- Dominant hegemony
- Deprivation theories

## **Additional reading and references**

Haralambos and Holbourn (1995) *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives*

Taylor *et al.* (1996) *Sociology in Focus*

Jorgensen *et al.* (1997) *Sociology: An interactive approach*

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

Giddens (1997) *Sociology 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*

Use the shared files where you will find a vast array of notes that will supplement your class notes.

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

### **Personal Development ideas**

- Look at some text books for teachers which are found in the LRC.
- Speak to teachers and ask them for their accounts of why some children fail.
- Speak to adults around you and make notes to explain why they feel that they have succeeded or failed. To what do they attribute success or lack of it?

### **Overview of the debate**

- Do homes and society fail children?
- Do schools fail children?
- Do children fail schools?
- The political view blames school for failure of children. Is this a fair account of what actually happens?

### **Revision tips**

- Be sure that you fully understand functionalist theory as it applies to the education system.
- Be sure that you fully understand Marxist theory as it applies to the education system.
- Be sure that you fully understand Interactionalist theory as it applies to the education system.
- Be sure that you fully understand feminist theory as it applies to the education system.

### **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 notes on all of the main theories and have considered them in a critical manner.