1.2 Marxist Perspectives on Education and the Correspondence Principle: Test Pack

AQA 7192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary in full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more. You have about 15 minutes in total.

1 Which of the following best describes the 'hidden curriculum' in the context of the school system and socialisation?

- ☐ A) the formal timetable of lessons and qualifications
- ☐ B) the explicit syllabus set by exam boards
- ☐ C) the informal lessons about attitudes and values taught through school routines and organisation
- ☐ D) the extra-curricular clubs available to students

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Describe one way Bourdieu's concept of habitus might influence a pupil's subject and career choices in the context of UK secondary education.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Identify and explain two features of Louis Althusser's view of education as an Ideological State Apparatus (ISA) in the context of modern schooling.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Item A: A local secondary school introduces a strict uniform policy, rewards punctuality with public praise, and places pupils in mixed-ability classes but allocates practical subjects to some streams and academic subjects to others. Using Item A and your own knowledge of Marxist theory, explain one way the school may reproduce class inequality.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.2 Marxist Perspectives on Education and the Correspondence Principle: Test Pack

Question 1

C (the informal lessons about attitudes and values taught through school routines and organisation) **B1**

Answer: C

Question 2

identifies that habitus is the dispositions and tastes shaped by social background **B1**

applies habitus to choices, e.g. a pupil from a middle-class habitus may choose academic subjects seen as prestigious **B1**

develops link, e.g. this leads to different trajectories and reproduces class differences in higher education and careers **B1**

Answer: Habitus, the dispositions shaped by social background, influences choices: a pupil from a middle-class habitus may prefer and be encouraged into academic subjects seen as prestigious, leading to different trajectories and reproducing class differences in higher education and careers.

Question 3

identifies feature one, e.g. education transmits ruling class ideology **B1**

explains feature one, e.g. schools persuade pupils that existing social relations are legitimate, reducing resistance to inequality **B1**

identifies feature two, e.g. education reproduces labour power and skills needed by capitalism **B1**

explains feature two, e.g. by sorting pupils into different roles and teaching appropriate attitudes, schools help supply compliant workers **B1**

Answer: Althusser saw education as an ISA that transmits ruling-class ideology, persuading pupils that existing social relations are legitimate and so reducing resistance; it also reproduces labour power and skills by sorting pupils and teaching attitudes needed for different roles in capitalism.

Question 4

identifies a way from the item, e.g. the policy of rewarding punctuality and public praise encourages conformity and obedience **B1**

applies Marxist idea, e.g. this is an example of the hidden curriculum preparing pupils for subordinate workplace roles as per the correspondence principle **B1**

develops link to class inequality, e.g. practical streams channel some pupils into lower-status vocational routes reproducing class divisions **B1**

accurate use of Item A plus Marxist vocabulary such as hidden curriculum or correspondence principle **B1**

Answer: The school's emphasis on punctuality and public praise encourages conformity and obedience, illustrating the hidden curriculum which, according to the correspondence principle, prepares pupils for subordinate workplace roles. Allocating pupils to practical streams channels some into lower-status vocational routes, reproducing class divisions.

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