1.3 External Factors in Class Differences in Educational Achievement: Test Pack

AQA 7192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary. Write full sentences for questions worth 4 marks or more. The final 12-mark question requires an evaluative response and a brief conclusion.

1 Which one of the following best describes 'material deprivation' in explanations of class differences in educational achievement in contemporary Britain?

- ☐ A) differences in family values about education
- ☐ B) shortages of money and physical resources that limit educational opportunities
- ☐ C) variations in teachers expectations by social class
- ☐ D) differences in school facilities between urban and rural areas

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Define 'deferred gratification' as used in Sugarman's framework and give one brief example of how it might affect a pupil's exam preparation.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 State one practical policy that might reduce the effect of material deprivation on achievement, and briefly explain how it would help.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Identify and explain one way overcrowded housing, as an element of material deprivation, can affect a pupil's educational achievement in the UK today.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Describe one difference between Bernstein's restricted and elaborated speech codes and explain why this difference might matter for success in the classroom and examinations.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.3 External Factors in Class Differences in Educational Achievement: Test Pack

Question 1

B (shortages of money and physical resources that limit educational opportunities) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

defines deferred gratification as the willingness to delay immediate pleasure for future rewards **B1**

gives an example, e.g. saving time for revision rather than social activities to gain better exam results **B1**

Answer: Deferred gratification is the willingness to delay immediate pleasure in order to obtain future rewards; for example, a pupil might spend evenings revising instead of socialising so they can achieve higher exam grades later.

Question 3

states a practical policy, e.g. providing free school meals or free school uniform assistance **B1**

briefly explains how it helps, e.g. improves nutrition or reduces direct costs, supporting attendance and concentration **B1**

Answer: One policy is providing free school meals; this improves pupil nutrition and concentration and removes a cost burden on low-income families, supporting attendance and classroom performance.

Question 4

identifies overcrowded housing as the factor (oe) **B1**

explains how it reduces a quiet space for homework or revision, harming study **B1**

provides further development, e.g. disruption and noise reduce concentration **B1**

links this effect to lower attainment, e.g. poorer exam results or falling behind peers **B1**

Answer: Overcrowded housing reduces access to a quiet place for homework and revision and increases noise and disruption, which lowers concentration and the quality of study, contributing to lower attainment and poorer exam results over time.

Question 5

describes a difference, e.g. restricted code is context-bound, with shorter, colloquial expressions; elaborated code is context-independent and uses more explicit grammar and vocabulary **B1**

explains why it matters, e.g. elaborated code fits school tasks and exam language better, aiding comprehension and expression **B1**

further development, e.g. pupils used to restricted code may struggle to access exam questions and write academic answers **B1**

Answer: Restricted code is context-bound and uses shorter, colloquial expressions, while elaborated code is more explicit and context-independent with a wider vocabulary; this matters because the elaborated code matches school and exam language better, so pupils from homes using restricted code may find it harder to understand exam questions and produce the expected answers.

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