4.1 The Role and Functions of Education: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary and name sociologists where you can.

1 Which sociological perspective sees the 'correspondence principle' as an accurate description of how schools operate?

- ☐ A) Functionalism
- ☐ B) Marxism
- ☐ C) Feminism
- ☐ D) Interactionism

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Which of these is most closely associated with a 'New Right' view of how to improve education?

- ☐ A) Encouraging competition between schools and greater parental choice
- ☐ B) Abolishing all school rules
- ☐ C) Removing exams and qualifications completely
- ☐ D) Making all schools identical in every way

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 Sociologists use the term 'meritocracy' to describe a particular way of allocating success. Define the term 'meritocracy'.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Explain one way the education system in England has changed over the last 50 years.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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5 Durkheim identified more than one function of education.

(a) Explain how Durkheim believed schools teach 'specialist skills'. **(2)**

(b) State one other function of education identified by Durkheim, other than teaching specialist skills. **(2)**

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

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6 Marxists criticise the functionalist claim that education is meritocratic. State one Marxist criticism of this claim.

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.1 The Role and Functions of Education: Test Pack

Question 1

B (Marxism) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

A (encouraging competition between schools and greater parental choice) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 3

a system in which an individual's success is based on their own ability and effort (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. rather than on factors such as family background or wealth **B1**

Answer: A system in which success is based on an individual's own ability and effort, rather than on factors such as family background or wealth.

Question 4

identifies a genuine change, e.g. a rise in the school leaving age, growth in the number of young people going on to higher education, or growth in vocational qualifications **B1**

brief development of that change **B1**

Answer: There has been a long-term rise in the school leaving age and in the proportion of young people going on to higher education, compared with 50 years ago.

Question 5

(a) identifies that modern industrial societies need a complex division of labour, with many different specialised jobs (oe) **B1**

(a) development, e.g. schools teach the specific knowledge and skills needed for particular occupational roles, which the family alone could not provide **B1**

(a) Answer: Durkheim argued modern societies need many specialised jobs, so schools teach the specific knowledge and skills needed for particular occupational roles that families cannot provide alone.

(b) names a second function, e.g. creating social solidarity or a shared value consensus **B1**

(b) brief accurate description of that function **B1**

(b) Answer: Creating social solidarity: education builds a shared sense of belonging and commitment to society through a shared history and culture.

Question 6

identifies a recognised Marxist criticism, e.g. that success is really linked to class background and cultural or material advantages, not just ability and effort **B1**

brief development, e.g. so meritocracy is a 'myth' that disguises real inequality **B1**

Answer: Marxists argue meritocracy is a myth: success is really linked to class background and material or cultural advantages, not just ability and effort, which disguises real inequality.

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