4.10 Types of School: Academies, Free Schools and Private Education: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological terms where appropriate. Write full sentences for all questions worth 3 marks or more.

1 Explain one way independent schools use curricular or extracurricular provision to give pupils an advantage when applying to elite universities in England today.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Identify and explain two practical reasons why some middle class parents prefer sending their child to a local academy or free school rather than to the maintained comprehensive nearby.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 State one limitation of using free school meal eligibility as a measure when comparing social disadvantage between different school types in England today.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.10 Types of School: Academies, Free Schools and Private Education: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a correct method, e.g. offering extensive extracurricular activities such as debating, music or work experience that match university selection preferences **B1**

explains why this helps, e.g. universities value applicants with demonstrated interests and leadership, so this provision strengthens applications beyond grades **B1**

Answer: Independent schools offer extensive extracurricular activities like debating, classical tuition or arranged work placements that match elite university selection preferences, giving pupils experiences and references that strengthen applications beyond exam grades.

Question 2

identifies one reason, e.g. perception of higher academic standards or specialisms at the academy or free school **B1**

explains how this matters, e.g. belief in better results or exam preparation motivates parents to choose that school **B1**

identifies a second reason, e.g. admissions priority for siblings or catchment that favours local homeowners **B1**

explains how this matters, e.g. practical advantages like sibling priority or proximity reduce travel stress and secure places for future children **B1**

Answer: Middle class parents may prefer an academy or free school because they perceive higher academic standards or specialisms that promise better exam outcomes, and because admissions rules such as sibling priority or favourable catchment reduce uncertainty and secure places for their family.

Question 3

identifies a correct limitation, e.g. it is an imperfect proxy that does not capture all aspects of poverty or parental education **B1**

brief development, e.g. families just above the eligibility threshold may still face hardship that the measure does not record **B1**

Answer: Free school meal eligibility is an imperfect proxy for disadvantage because it misses families just above the threshold and does not capture other factors such as parental education or housing instability that affect pupils.

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