4.11 The 1988 Education Reform Act and the National Curriculum: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Use sociological vocabulary and, where asked, short full sentences. The extended evaluation question at the end requires a developed conclusion.

1 Using the 1988 Act context, explain one advantage of having a compulsory National Curriculum for pupil equality of opportunity.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State one way the National Curriculum, as created by the 1988 Act, limited local discretion over what was taught in maintained schools.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Identify and explain one way the National Curriculum attempted to make school outcomes more comparable across the country under the 1988 Act.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Define what is meant by the National Curriculum as introduced by the 1988 Education Reform Act, in the context of school subjects and attainment targets.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.11 The 1988 Education Reform Act and the National Curriculum: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies advantage, e.g. all pupils taught a common core of knowledge so those in different areas get similar entitlement **B1**

development, e.g. this reduces postcode variation in what is taught and supports fairness in educational entitlement **B1**

Answer: A compulsory National Curriculum gives all pupils a common core of knowledge, so children in different areas are entitled to similar learning and reduce postcode variation in teaching.

Question 2

identifies limitation, e.g. programmes of study and attainment targets were centrally specified, reducing local curriculum design **B1**

brief development, e.g. local authorities and schools had less freedom to choose which topics to prioritise **B1**

Answer: The National Curriculum's centrally specified programmes of study and attainment targets reduced local curriculum design and meant local authorities and schools had less freedom to choose topics.

Question 3

identifies a method, e.g. standardised attainment targets and programmes of study **B1**

explains how this supported comparability, e.g. common criteria meant different schools were teaching to the same standards so results could be compared **B1**

Answer: By setting standardised attainment targets and programmes of study, the National Curriculum meant different schools taught to the same standards, so pupil outcomes could be compared nationally.

Question 4

identifies the National Curriculum as a centrally specified set of subjects and programmes of study for schools (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. it included attainment targets and programmes of study for each Key Stage to set expectations for what pupils should learn **B1**

Answer: The National Curriculum is a centrally specified set of subjects and programmes of study for maintained schools, including attainment targets and programmes of study for each Key Stage.

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