4.11 The 1988 Education Reform Act and the National Curriculum: Test Pack

AQA 8192 · about 15 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 Which statutory change in the 1988 Education Reform Act required the same basic subjects to be taught in maintained schools across England and Wales?

- ☐ A) The fragmentation of local education authorities
- ☐ B) The compulsory National Curriculum
- ☐ C) The expansion of private academies
- ☐ D) The abolition of standardised testing

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Explain two possible effects of publishing SAT results on classroom practice, in the context of the 1988 Act making performance information public.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 State one subject that became part of the core National Curriculum subjects under the 1988 Act, for example at primary level.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 The 1988 Act required publication of certain school data that later formed the basis for league tables. Explain how the 1988 Act led to the development of school league tables.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.11 The 1988 Education Reform Act and the National Curriculum: Test Pack

Question 1

B (the compulsory National Curriculum) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies one effect, e.g. teaching to the test, concentrating on content most likely to appear in SATs **B1**

development of that effect, e.g. narrowing of the taught curriculum and less time for wider skills or creativity **B1**

identifies second effect, e.g. increased use of target setting and tracking to raise test scores **B1**

development of that effect, e.g. data-driven practice may intensify focus on pupils near the pass level and change resource allocation **B1**

Answer: Publishing SAT results can lead to teaching to the test, narrowing the taught curriculum to likely SAT content and reducing wider skills work; it can also increase target setting and tracking to raise scores, focusing resources on pupils near key thresholds.

Question 3

identifies a core subject, e.g. English, Mathematics or Science **B1**

brief development, e.g. these were mandatory parts of the National Curriculum programmes of study **B1**

Answer: English (or Mathematics or Science) became core National Curriculum subjects and were mandatory parts of the programmes of study.

Question 4

identifies that the Act required schools to publish exam and test results and other performance information **B1**

development, e.g. publication made school performance comparable for parents and local communities **B1**

identifies that the statutory requirement for publishing results provided the legislative origin for later school league tables **B1**

development, e.g. this comparability enabled central and media ranking of schools using published data **B1**

Answer: The Act required publication of test and exam results and performance information, making schools comparable for parents and communities; this statutory publication provided the legislative origin for later league tables and allowed central or media rankings based on published data.

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