4.2 Social Class and Educational Achievement: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

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

1 Material and cultural factors can affect exam success in different ways.

(a) Explain one material factor that might affect a pupil's success specifically at exam time. **(2)**

(b) Explain one cultural factor, other than language, that might affect a pupil's achievement. **(2)**

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

2 A pupil lives in overcrowded housing, which makes it hard to find a quiet space to do homework.

- ☐ A) Material deprivation
- ☐ B) Cultural deprivation
- ☐ C) The correspondence principle
- ☐ D) The hidden curriculum

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 Sociologists distinguish 'cultural deprivation' from 'material deprivation' as an explanation of class differences in achievement. Define cultural deprivation.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 State one criticism that is often made of cultural deprivation explanations of class differences in achievement.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.2 Social Class and Educational Achievement: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) identifies a relevant material factor, e.g. being unable to afford revision guides, private tutoring, or a quiet space at home to revise **B1**

(a) brief development linking it to exam performance **B1**

(a) Answer: A pupil unable to afford revision guides or a quiet space at home to revise may be less well prepared for exams than a pupil with these resources.

(b) identifies a relevant cultural factor, e.g. differing value placed within a family on staying in education after 16, or confidence engaging with teachers and school staff **B1**

(b) brief development linking it to achievement **B1**

(b) Answer: A family that places a strong value on staying in education after 16 may encourage a pupil more actively to aim for further study, supporting higher achievement.

Question 2

A (material deprivation) **B1**

Answer: A

Question 3

a lack of the attitudes, knowledge or language valued by the education system, said to result from a pupil's home/family culture (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. this is different from material deprivation, which refers to a lack of money or physical resources rather than culture or attitudes **B1**

Answer: Cultural deprivation is a lack of the attitudes, knowledge or language valued by schools, said to result from a pupil's home culture; unlike material deprivation, it is not about a lack of money or physical resources.

Question 4

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. it can be seen as blaming working-class families or their culture for underachievement, rather than examining how schools themselves may disadvantage working-class pupils **B1**

brief development, e.g. or that critics argue material deprivation (lack of money and resources) may be a more significant factor than culture or attitudes **B1**

Answer: Critics argue cultural deprivation explanations can unfairly blame working-class families or their culture, rather than examining how schools themselves disadvantage working-class pupils, and that material deprivation may matter more than culture.

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