4.5 Labelling and the Self-Fulfilling Prophecy in Schools: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Where a question refers to Item D, use both the Item and your own knowledge of labelling theory in your answer.

1 Howard Becker's research on labelling in schools examined teachers' image of what?

- ☐ A) The 'ideal pupil'
- ☐ B) The 'ideal parent'
- ☐ C) The 'ideal curriculum'
- ☐ D) The 'ideal exam'

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

---

2 Sociologists also use the term 'master status' when discussing labelling. Define master status.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Labels can be negative or positive, and can affect a pupil's set placement as well as their self-image.

(a) Explain one way being placed in a lower set might reinforce a negative label. **(2)**

(b) Explain one way a positive label might benefit a pupil. **(2)**

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

---

4 State one way a school might try to reduce the negative effects of labelling on pupils.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 4.5 Labelling and the Self-Fulfilling Prophecy in Schools: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

A (the 'ideal pupil') **B1**

Answer: A

Question 2

the label that comes to dominate how a person is seen by others, overriding their other characteristics (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. a pupil might come to be seen mainly as 'the troublemaker' rather than as an individual with many other qualities **B1**

Answer: The label that comes to dominate how a person is seen by others, overriding their other characteristics; a pupil might come to be seen mainly as 'the troublemaker' rather than as an individual with many other qualities.

Question 3

(a) identifies e.g. being placed in a lower set can signal low expectations to both the pupil and their teachers **B1**

(a) development, e.g. which may become self-fulfilling, further lowering achievement **B1**

(a) Answer: Being placed in a lower set can signal low expectations to the pupil and their teachers alike, which may become self-fulfilling and further lower achievement.

(b) identifies e.g. a pupil labelled as bright may be given more encouragement, attention or challenging opportunities by teachers **B1**

(b) development, e.g. increasing confidence and further raising achievement, a positive self-fulfilling prophecy **B1**

(b) Answer: A pupil labelled as bright may receive more encouragement and challenging opportunities from teachers, which can increase confidence and further raise achievement, a positive self-fulfilling prophecy.

Question 4

identifies a genuine measure, e.g. training staff to be aware of unconscious bias, using mixed-ability teaching, or a formal 'fresh start' policy when a pupil changes class or year group **B1**

brief accurate development **B1**

Answer: Training staff to be aware of unconscious bias, so that early impressions are questioned rather than automatically acted on, can help reduce the negative effects of labelling.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk