4.6 Streaming, Setting and Pupil Subcultures: 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 Sociologists use the term 'pro-school subculture' to describe one possible pupil response to school. Define pro-school subculture.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Setting and streaming have both advantages and disadvantages, according to different sociologists and educators.

(a) Explain one advantage a school might see in using setting or streaming. **(2)**

(b) Explain one disadvantage or criticism of setting or streaming. **(2)**

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 State one criticism that is often made of Willis's study of 'the lads'.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.6 Streaming, Setting and Pupil Subcultures: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

a group of pupils who accept and support the school's values and goals, e.g. working hard and following rules (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. often associated by Lacey with pupils placed in higher streams or sets **B1**

Answer: A group of pupils who accept and support the school's values and goals, working hard and following rules; Lacey associated this often with pupils placed in higher streams.

Question 2

(a) identifies a plausible advantage, e.g. teaching pace and content can be matched more closely to a group's needs, or focused catch-up support can be targeted at pupils who need it **B1**

(a) brief development **B1**

(a) Answer: Teaching pace and content can be matched more closely to a group's needs, and focused catch-up support can be targeted at pupils who need it most.

(b) identifies a disadvantage, e.g. it can create a self-fulfilling prophecy for pupils placed in lower sets, or contribute to the formation of anti-school subcultures (Lacey's polarisation) **B1**

(b) brief development **B1**

(b) Answer: Setting or streaming can create a self-fulfilling prophecy for pupils placed in lower sets, and can contribute to the polarisation into pro-school and anti-school subcultures described by Lacey.

Question 3

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. the study was based on a very small sample of twelve boys at one school, so its findings may not generalise widely **B1**

brief development, e.g. or that it focused on only one type of pupil response (anti-school, working-class boys), not the full range of ways pupils respond to school **B1**

Answer: Willis's study used a very small sample of twelve boys at one school, so its findings may not generalise widely, and it focused on only one type of pupil response rather than the full range.

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