3.5 Childhood and Its Social Construction: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Show your understanding by using sociological vocabulary and, where asked, your own examples.

1 Which historian argued that in medieval Europe there was no separate concept of childhood, and that children were treated much like small adults once they no longer needed constant care?

- ☐ A) Neil Postman
- ☐ B) Philippe Aries
- ☐ C) Sue Palmer
- ☐ D) Jens Qvortrup

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain one reason compulsory schooling changed the position of children in society.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Give one example of a legal protection for children in the UK today, other than compulsory schooling.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

4 State one criticism of the 'march of progress' view of childhood.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

5 Define what sociologists mean when they say childhood is a 'social construction'.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 3.5 Childhood and Its Social Construction: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

B (Philippe Aries) **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies, e.g. it removed most children from full-time paid work and grouped them together by age **B1**

development, e.g. this reinforced the idea of childhood as a separate stage of life focused on learning rather than work **B1**

Answer: Compulsory schooling removed most children from full-time paid work and grouped them together by age, reinforcing the idea of childhood as a separate stage focused on learning rather than work.

Question 3

a correct example, e.g. laws against employing children below a minimum age, or child protection/safeguarding laws **B1**

brief development **B1**

Answer: Laws set a minimum age below which children cannot be employed, and safeguarding laws require agencies such as schools to protect children from harm.

Question 4

identifies a recognised criticism, e.g. it can present childhood today as automatically better for every child, ignoring poverty, abuse or inequality some children still experience **B1**

brief development, e.g. or that it assumes progress is steady and permanent, when some sociologists argue childhood protections could also be eroded, as Postman suggested **B1**

Answer: Critics argue the march of progress view can wrongly present childhood as automatically better for every child, ignoring poverty or abuse some still experience, and assumes progress is permanent when protections could also be eroded.

Question 5

identifies that a social construction is an idea created and given meaning by society or culture, rather than something fixed or natural (oe) **B1**

development, e.g. sociologists argue 'childhood' is understood differently in different times and places, rather than meaning exactly the same thing everywhere **B1**

Answer: A social construction is an idea created and given meaning by society or culture, rather than something fixed or natural; sociologists argue childhood is understood differently in different times and places.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk