6.11 Inequality Based on Disability and Other Social Divisions: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. At least four of your answers should be written in full sentences where indicated. Use sociological terms such as social model, medical model, discrimination, and life chances where relevant.

1 Give one concrete example of discrimination in recruitment experienced by disabled applicants in Britain.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Describe one strength of the social model of disability for understanding inequality experienced by disabled people in Britain.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Discuss how far sociologists would agree that disability has a major effect on a person's life chances in Britain today.

(Total for Question 3 is 12 marks)

4 Define the term 'medical model of disability' as used in British sociology and policy debates.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

5 Describe one way the extra costs associated with disability can increase the risk of poverty for a disabled person living in Britain.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

6 Item A: A small survey of 120 disabled people in a UK town found 38% reported employers refusing to interview them because of their disability, 46% reported extra monthly costs for specialist equipment averaging £95, and 22% reported being offered only part-time roles when they sought full-time work. Using Item A and your sociological knowledge, explain two ways these findings could reduce life chances for disabled people in that town.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 6.11 Inequality Based on Disability and Other Social Divisions: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a concrete example, e.g. job adverts saying 'must be able to travel without assistance' excluding some disabled applicants	**B1**
brief development, e.g. this acts as a filter to exclude applicants before interviews	**B1**

Answer: A job advert stating 'must be able to travel without assistance' excludes some disabled applicants, acting as a filter that prevents them reaching interview stages.

Question 2

identifies a strength, e.g. focuses attention on changing social structures and barriers	**B1**
development, e.g. points to practical solutions like accessible design and inclusive policies	**B1**
further development, e.g. empowers disabled people and supports collective rights-based approaches	**B1**

Answer: The social model focuses attention on social structures and barriers and points to practical solutions like accessible design and inclusive policies, which can empower disabled people and support rights-based collective action.

Question 3

Level 1 Basic statements about disability and life chances with little development or sociological detail.	**1-3**
Level 2 Some developed points using sociological ideas, for example naming the social and medical models and giving limited evidence of how disability affects employment or income.	**4-6**
Level 3 Clear explanation and comparison of sociological perspectives, such as social model, medical model and relevant feminist or Marxist arguments, with appropriate evidence on barriers, extra costs and discrimination.	**7-9**
Level 4 A balanced, well-developed evaluation using competing sociological perspectives, detailed evidence about how disability affects employment, poverty and participation, consideration of policies such as the Equality Act and reasonable adjustments, and a reasoned conclusion on the extent of agreement among sociologists.	**10-12**

Indicative content:

- Social model view: disability mainly reduces life chances because society creates barriers such as inaccessible buildings, lack of reasonable adjustments, and negative attitudes which limit education, employment and social participation.
- Medical model view: some sociologists and policy-makers focus on impairment and medical treatment, arguing that personal limitations explain reduced life chances, and that medical intervention can improve outcomes.
- Marxist or economic perspectives: discuss how capitalism and labour market structures can disadvantage disabled people through insecure, low-paid work and employer cost concerns.
- Feminist intersectional points: disability can compound other disadvantages such as poverty, gender or age, making life chances worse for some groups.
- Empirical evidence: statistics and studies showing higher poverty rates among disabled households, employment gaps, extra costs of disability, and reports of recruitment discrimination and workplace barriers.
- Policy responses: the Equality Act and requirements for reasonable adjustments, welfare benefits and Access to Work schemes as mechanisms that can improve life chances, but also critiques that implementation is inconsistent.
- Evaluation points: consider variation within disabled people, the role of impairment severity, employer attitudes, local services, and the idea that disability does not automatically determine life chances but interacts with other social factors.
- Conclusion: on balance many sociologists agree disability affects life chances significantly because of social barriers, but there is debate about the extent and the role of individual impairment versus social structures; a supported judgement should be given.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Question 4

identifies that the medical model treats disability as an individual problem or deficit located in the person **B1**

development, e.g. emphasis on treatment, cure or rehabilitation to make the person fit social expectations **B1**

Answer: The medical model treats disability as an individual problem or deficit located in the person, with emphasis on treatment, cure or rehabilitation to make the person fit social expectations.

Question 5

identifies an extra cost, e.g. specialist equipment, adaptations or personal care **B1**

development, e.g. these costs increase household spending compared with a non-disabled household **B1**

further development, e.g. if benefits do not cover these costs, the household is more likely to fall into or remain in poverty **B1**

Answer: Specialist equipment, housing adaptations or personal care increase household spending compared with non-disabled households; if benefits and incomes do not cover these extra costs, the household is more likely to fall into or remain in poverty.

Question 6

identifies a way drawn from Item A, e.g. employers refusing to interview limits access to jobs **B1**

explains the effect, e.g. fewer interviews reduce chances of employment, lowering income and career prospects **B1**

identifies a second way drawn from Item A, e.g. extra monthly costs of ~£95 reduce disposable income **B1**

explains the effect, e.g. higher living costs increase poverty risk and reduce ability to afford services that improve life chances **B1**

Answer: Employers refusing to interview disabled applicants directly limits their access to jobs, reducing income and career prospects; extra monthly costs averaging £95 reduce disposable income and make it harder to afford services or savings that improve life chances.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk