6.8 Classifying Social Class and the Growth of an Underclass: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8192 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. For extended answers write in full sentences. Time guidance: 10 minutes for the whole pack.

1 Using Item A and your own knowledge, identify and explain one way stigma or employer discrimination can contribute to the formation of an underclass.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State one structural view explanation for the existence of a long-term underclass in Britain.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Give two ways sociologists might measure the existence of an underclass in a town, other than using occupation-based class categories.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.8 Classifying Social Class and the Growth of an Underclass: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies stigma or discrimination, e.g. employers reject applicants from certain estates or with long gaps in employment **B1**

development, e.g. this locks people out of jobs, making workless households persist across generations and reinforcing marginalisation **B1**

Answer: Stigma can lead employers to reject applicants from certain council estates or with long gaps in employment, locking people out of jobs and making workless households persist across generations, reinforcing marginalisation.

Question 2

identifies structural explanation, e.g. long-term economic change causing industrial decline and fewer jobs for less skilled workers **B1**

brief development, e.g. combined with weak local services this produces persistent worklessness rather than a cultural choice **B1**

Answer: A structural explanation is that long-term economic change, such as industrial decline, reduced jobs for less skilled workers; together with weak local services, this produces persistent worklessness rather than a cultural choice.

Question 3

first valid measure, e.g. rates of long-term unemployment or economic inactivity in local areas **B1**

development **B1**

second valid measure, e.g. levels of poverty, benefit dependency or low household income in small-area statistics **B1**

development **B1**

Answer: Two other measures are local rates of long-term unemployment or economic inactivity, and levels of poverty or benefit dependency measured by small-area statistics such as local household incomes.

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