

Chapter 2 Education

Topic 5 The role of education in society

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Activity: Discussion

Which side are you on?

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity, you should be able to:

- To identify key features of perspectives on education.
- To evaluate perspectives highlighting strengths and limitations of each one.
- Apply perspectives on education to education in the UK today.

A. Divide into groups. Each group will be given a perspective: functionalist, neoliberal/New Right or Marxist.

B. For your given perspective, prepare a 10-minute presentation to show how your explanation of education is the most useful in understanding education in the UK today.

Your aim as a group is to persuade others in your class that your perspective is the most useful in understanding education in the UK today.

Here are some points to help you get started:

1. Read the section relating to your perspective and the other perspectives.
2. What are the key issues and concepts used by your perspective?
3. Is their view of education positive or negative?
4. What examples from your own education/school can you use to highlight key points?

C. Use your research to take part in a class discussion: 'Which side are you on?'

D. As a class you will vote on which perspective is the most useful in understanding education. When making your choice you must only consider the evidence presented during the discussion.

E. Write a summary of your discussion.