

Chapter 2 Education

Topic 6 Educational policy and inequality

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Activity: Media

Sponsored academies – a public-private partnership

Learning objective

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

- Identify key features of sponsored academies.

Box 10 covers the neoliberal view of education and how this is linked to the privatisation of education. Read this Box and the section on academies on page 81.

Watch the clip and answer the questions below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8wNCMTisc0>

The film focuses on education public-private partnerships (ePPPs). It critically examines three aspects of ePPPs: learning results, governance and accountability. You will need to note both the strengths and weaknesses of academies in each of these three aspects. The questions below will help you.

A. Learning results

1. The film states that some sponsored academies get good results. How do they do this?
2. What is the impact of school admissions policies on:
 - a. sponsored academies?
 - b. other schools?
3. How is it suggested that school achievement should be measured?

B. Governance

7. How is the governance of sponsored academies different to that of state schools?
8. Why are sponsors interested in being involved with schools?
9. Why do sponsors want to have control over the governance of the sponsored academies?

C. Accountability

7. What are the problems of sponsored academies having no public accountability?
8. How is the accountability of sponsored academies shown to be rigorous?
9. What types of firms are investing in academies?
10. What role do parents play in sponsored academies?

D. On the basis of what you have seen in the clip, are you in favour or against sponsored academies? Give your reasons.