

Chapter 2 Education

Topic 4 Gender differences in education

Answers to QuickCheck Questions on page 64

1. Any two of the following: the impact of feminism; changes in the family; changes in women's employment; girls' changing ambitions.
2. Any three of the following: equal opportunity policies; positive role models in schools: GCSE and coursework; teacher attention; challenging stereotypes in the curriculum; selection and league tables.
3. Two-thirds of 7-8 year olds believe teacher's gender doesn't matter. Female teachers adopt the same authoritarian discourse/teaching style as male teachers.
4. Because conflict between their feminine identities and the school's habitus/values prevent them acquiring educational capital (qualifications).
5. Any two of the following: gender role socialisation; gendered subject images; gender identity and peer pressure; gendered career opportunities.
6. Any of the following: male peer groups using verbal abuse to reinforce definitions of masculinity; male peer groups accusing boys who want to do well of being gay; working-class female peer groups awarding symbolic capital (status and popularity) to girls who perform a hyper-heterosexual feminine identity; girls using 'slut-shaming' to police each other's identities; the exclusion of girls who don't conform to a female peer group's definition of femininity.