

Chapter 2 Education

Topic 5 The role of education in society

Answers to QuickCheck Questions on page 75

1. Where a person's social position is fixed by birth.
2. Rules that apply only to a particular child.
3. Any two of the following:
Both believe that some people are naturally more talented than others. Both favour an education system run on meritocratic principles. Both see the education system as serving the needs of the economy by preparing young people for work. Both hold the view that education should socialise pupils into shared values/instil a sense of national identity.
4. The reproduction of class inequality refers to the transmission of inequality from generation to generation. The legitimisation of class inequality refers to ideas and beliefs that justify class inequality by disguising its true causes.
5. The social relationships and structures found in education mirror or correspond to those of work.
6. An economy that is based on 'flexible specialisation', where production is customised for small specialist markets.
7. Marxists see social class as the key inequality, whereas critical modernists see non-class inequalities, such as ethnicity, gender and sexuality, as equally important.
8. Any two of the following: it romanticises the lads, portraying them as working-class heroes despite their anti-social behaviour and sexist attitudes; it is very small-scale and may be unrepresentative; it focuses only on class, ignoring other inequalities (e.g. gender) or how different forms of inequality are inter-related.