

Chapter 2 Education

Topic 1 Class differences in achievement (1) external factors

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Activity: Discussion

A child's background can disadvantage their education

Learning objectives

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

- Explain how home background may affect pupils' educational achievement.
- Identify key features of cultural deprivation theory.
- Evaluate the usefulness of cultural deprivation theory.

Cultural deprivation theorists claim that working-class children's background and primary socialisation may not prepare them for education and so leads to their underachievement.

1. Divide into two groups. One group should assume they are from a working-class background. The other should assume they are from a middle-class background. Using your textbook (pages 17-21) and your own experiences, prepare a case to explain why each class might be advantaged or disadvantaged in education because of the culture of their social class.

Here are some points to help you get started. Add any others you can think of:

- Help with homework
- Parents' evenings
- Attitude towards school
- Expectations of your future

2. Use your research to take part in a class discussion: 'A child's home background can disadvantage their education'.

3. Write a paragraph summarising your research and class discussion.

4. Do you agree with the cultural deprivation explanation of class differences in achievement? Give your reasons.