

Chapter 2 Education

Topic 3 Ethnic differences in achievement

Answers to QuickCheck Questions on page 49

1. Chinese pupils, Indian pupils, Black pupils.
2. It ignores the positive effects of ethnicity on achievement. It wrongly sees Black pupils as failing because their culture is weak and they lack self-esteem. It is a victim-blaming explanation that mistakes cultural difference for cultural deprivation.
3. Sewell argues that Black boys do worse than Asian pupils because they lack supportive families/have absent fathers, have lower expectations placed on them and negative attitudes to education.
4. Teachers' racialised expectations exist where teachers expect Black pupils to present more discipline problems and misinterpret their behaviour as threatening or as a challenge to authority.
5. A curriculum that reflects or gives priority to the culture and viewpoint of one particular ethnic group, while disregarding others.
6. The ideal pupil identity (White, middle-class); the pathologised pupil identity (Asian, deserving poor); the demonised pupil identity (Black or White working-class).